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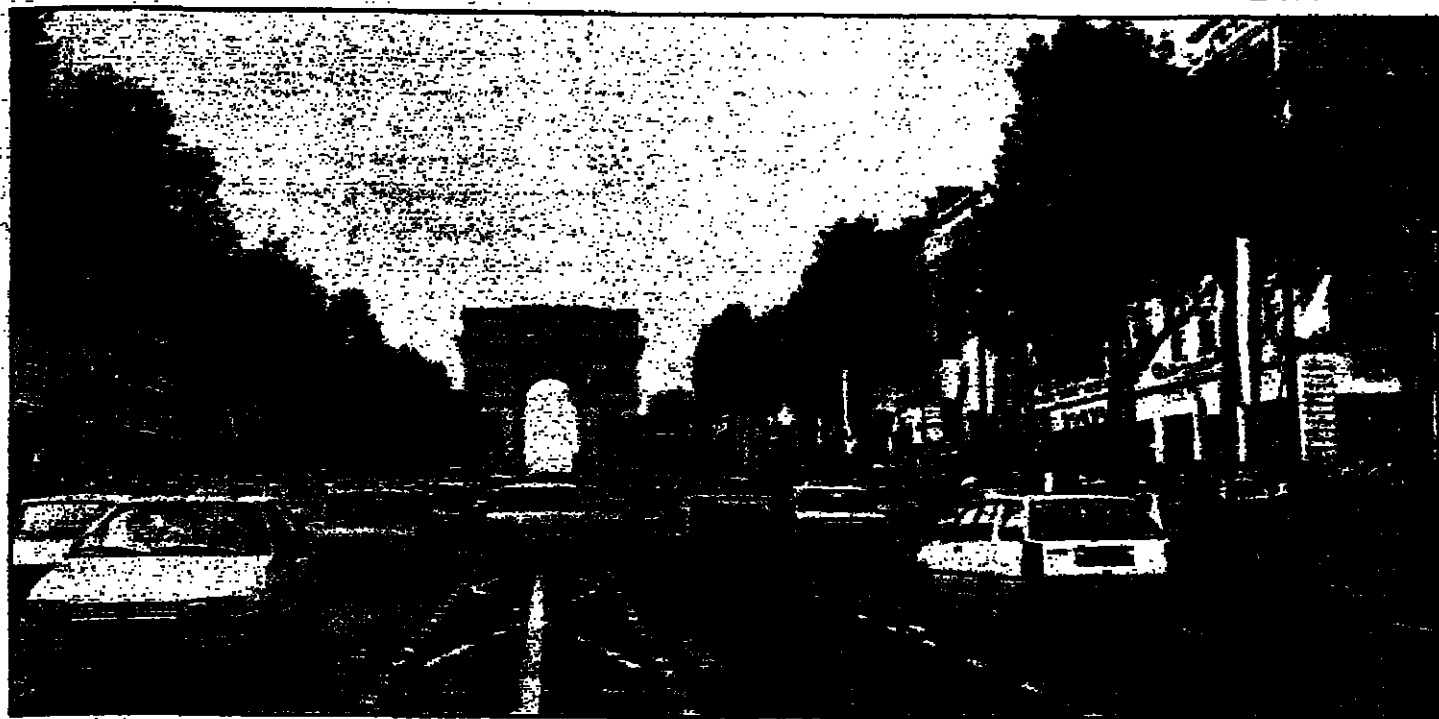
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Champs-Élysées decorated with Kuwaiti and French flags.



Kuwaitis presenting the Ardha (sword) dance in Paris.

60 dead on Bangla bus

DHAKA, Sept. 25, (AP): A crowded bus plunged off a bridge and into a river in southwestern Bangladesh today, killing at least 60 people, authorities said.

Eight people survived and were hospitalized in serious condition, the officials said.

The accident occurred early today on a busy highway near Manikganj, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) southwest of Dhaka, said the deputy commissioner of Manikganj, Muslem Ali. The bus was traveling from the northern town of Naogan to the capital.

The driver apparently lost control of the vehicle, which smashed through the protective railing on the bridge and plunged 16 metres into the Ichhamati river, he said.

(See Page 2)

Pakistan places airports on alert

KARACHI, Sept. 25, (Reuters): Pakistan has put its international airports on red alert following the execution of 15 Kuwaitis in Saudi Arabia and rumors of a planned hijack of a Saudi plane, a police official said today.

The Kuwaitis, were beheaded in public last Thursday for taking part in bomb attacks in Makkah during the annual Muslim pilgrimage.

The Pakistan police official said there had been unconfirmed reports that extremists were planning to hijack a Saudi Arabian airliner from Karachi airport.

Another official said one man had been arrested in the airport today morning and was being interrogated.

Kingdom issues second warning

NICOSIA, Sept. 25, (Reuters): King Fahd today promised death by the sword to anyone who threatened Saudi Arabia's security, the monarch's second such warning in two days.

The King, in a letter to senior Saudi officials, governors and clergymen, said Riyadh would also enforce "God's law" — public beheading — on anyone who disrupted the annual Muslim pilgrimage.

Makati grenade injures 2 Cory dangles referendum

MANILA, Sept. 25, (AP): A grenade exploded today in Manila's financial district and two other buildings were evacuated because of bomb threats, one day before the arrival of US Vice-President Dan Quayle. Two people were injured, police said.

Police said the grenade was hurled at about 1:15 pm (0515 GMT) at the ground floor of an office building in the Makati financial district. Two women, one of them pregnant, were injured. The assailant escaped.

Police said telephoned bomb threats were received at two other office buildings. The buildings were evacuated but no devices were found, they said.

The blast was the latest in a series of unsolved grenade explosions in the past two weeks

that have killed at least two people. The blasts prompted officials to place police and military units on alert in the Manila area.

Security also has been stepped up because leftist groups have called for demonstrations when Quayle arrives tomorrow for a three-day visit. He is expected to discuss the future of the six US military bases — with 40,000 troops, dependents and civilian employees — in the Philippines.

Last Friday, police clashed with about 1,000 leftists protesting Quayle's visit.

The lease on the bases, including Clark Air Base, the Subic Bay Naval Base and four smaller installations, expires in September 1991. Many Filipino politicians

have called for them to be closed.

Any agreement extending the bases must be approved by two-thirds of the 23-member Philippine Senate. At least 12 senators have called publicly for closing the bases in 1991, but most surveys indicate a majority of Filipinos support the bases.

President Corason Aquino has refused to say whether she will support an extension. She said today that if Philippine and US negotiators reach an agreement on extending the bases, "then before the new treaty is ratified by the senate, perhaps it would be good to ask the people themselves what they think of the new treaty."

Meanwhile, Vice-President Salvador Laurel called today for phasing out American military bases over five to 10 years to avoid serious disruptions in the Philippine economy and regional balance of power.

"I stress the need for the Philippines to undertake its own external defence eventually," Laurel told reporters. "Right now we are completely dependent on the United States for our external defence."

Quayle is expected to discuss the issue with Aquino on Wednesday and afterward tour both Clark and Subic. Aquino has offered to begin talks on a new bases agreement, and says she is waiting for a response from Washington.

During a speech today to a civic club, the Soviet ambassador to Manila, Oleg Sokolov, said the bases were an anachronism and that Moscow had no intention of filling any power vacuum created by an American withdrawal.



A Filipina demonstrator shouts 'We want the bases out' as some 30 other women join her in staging a picket rally in front of the US embassy in Manila. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nicaragua invites Kuwait to supervise elections

KUWAIT, Sept. 25, (KUNA): Nicaragua has invited Kuwait to send a representative to take part in an international committee supervising general elections to be held there next year.

The international committee comprises representatives from the United Nations, Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC), Non-Aligned Movement, Organisation of African Unity and other regional and international organisations.

The Nicaraguan invitation was presented by special envoy of President Daniel Ortega who was received by Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed here this afternoon.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters that the visit of the Nicaraguan envoy was a follow up to talks held earlier this month between HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed and President Ortega on the sidelines of the non-aligned summit in Belgrade.

He said President Ortega is due to visit Kuwait next month at the invitation of the Amir.

The envoy, George Halaq, told KUNA that he briefed Sheikh Sabah on the content of the message relayed from President Ortega to HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah.

He said the message contained thanks of

President Ortega to HH the Amir for the positive outcome of their encounter in Belgrade and further dealt with President Ortega's interest to boost relations between his country and Kuwait.

Halaq indicated that there is a big Arab community in Nicaragua with a number of them participating in government, saying President Ortega himself was of an Arab descent.

The Nicaraguan envoy said he received an implicit approval from Kuwait regarding participation of an Amir representative in his capacity as current chairman of the OIC in the international committee for monitoring next year's elections.

Mitterrand receives Amir Kuwait's day on the Champs-Élysées

PARIS, Sept. 25, (Agencies): HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed and the accompanying delegation arrived here today from Baghdad on an official visit to France.

The Amir was received at the airport by French President Francois Mitterrand.

The Amir today ended a three-day visit to Iraq during which he held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

On his way to Paris the Amir made a stopover in the Greek island of Rhodes.

Mitterrand, in a welcome speech, said he was pleased to receive the Amir on French soil.

He recalled his 1986 visit to Kuwait and noted that ever since bilateral contacts have been maintained on all international issues with special emphasis on Mideast.

The French head of state hailed the strong relations between Kuwait and France and said: "We look forward to further advancing them."

The Amir, in a reply statement, appreciated the warm welcome he received on arrival in Paris and expressed satisfaction over the visit to France.

The Amir hoped that bilateral ties would further strengthen on various levels and congratulated Mitterrand on the bicentennial anniversary of the French Revolution and the centennial anniversary of building of the Eiffel Tower.

The Amir described the tower as a symbol of Paris and underlined that the French Revolution had deep impact on international events.

In Baghdad, the Amir was seen off at the airport by Saddam, who earlier in the day presented him with a gold-plated Iraqi-made Kalashnikov automatic rifle.

The Iraqis honoured the Amir for Kuwait's support for Baghdad during the eight-year war with Iran.

The Amir and Saddam met twice Saturday and yesterday to discuss bilateral relations and developments in the region, Iraq's state-run television reported.

The official Iraqi News Agency said the two leaders also discussed ways of further developing the "solid fraternal" relations.

The INA quoted the Amir as saying in a departure statement that his visit reflected the "brotherly and close ties" between Iraq and Kuwait.

Opec close on oil output

GENEVA, Sept. 25, (Agencies): Opec ministers today were nearing an agreement on their production plans for the coming months, a highly placed source said.

The ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries were meeting privately to try to restart talks stalled over whether they can lift oil production and still keep crude prices steady.

They were scheduled to hold a third round of formal talks early this evening.

The source, who demanded anonymity, said that it appeared an agreement was near. But he said no figure had been set for the production ceiling to guide Opec for the rest of the year.

"We're working on something," said Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Al-Chalabi after a luncheon meeting with officials from Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Nigeria.

Algerian Mines Minister Sadek Boussena left earlier to return to Algiers for a legislative meeting.

Hurrying to his car, he said he had no statement to make but wished his colleagues "much success."

Boussena has been pressing the ministers to maintain their production ceiling at the current level of 19.5 million barrels a day to lift crude prices by a dollar, up to Opec's target of \$18 a barrel.

Current Opec production is about 22 million barrels a day, well above the declared production ceiling. Prices have been steady in recent months, but below the target of \$18 a barrel.

Other members want to raise the supply cap in the last three months of the year. They argue demand is strong enough to absorb the increase without upsetting prices.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azadeh, who says the market is too weak to sustain a production increase, suggested the ministers might defer their disputes until a scheduled meeting in late November.

Opec Secretary-General Subroto, had predicted that demand for Opec's oil will reach about 22 million barrels a day in the final three months of the year. Such a high demand would push prices up.

The Kuwait Oil Minister, Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah today continued his discussions with other Opec oil and energy ministers on the third day of the meeting of the eight-minister monitoring committee.

Bush tables chemicals offer

'Freedom on the march'

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 25, (Agencies): US President George Bush today proposed the elimination of chemical weapons world-wide in concert with the Soviet Union and all nations that have the weapons or capability to make them.

"The world has lived too long in a shadow of chemical warfare," Bush told the United Nations General Assembly, seeking to spur a 40-nation treaty conference on banning chemical weapons. He proposed a phased, worldwide ban on chemical weapons within 10 years after the signing of an international treaty to end the manufacture and storage of such weapons.

While the chemical weapons plan was the centrepiece of his remarks, Bush also paid tribute to the Soviet Union for removing "a number of obstacles" on treaties reducing long-range nuclear weapons as well as troops and tanks in Europe.

Bush took note of the array of agreements reached during weekend talks between US Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, as well as a decision to hold a summit meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev by early next summer.

"Each of these achievements is important in its own right. But they are more important still as signs of a new attitude that prevails between the US and USSR," he said. "Serious differences remain — we know that — but the willingness to deal constructively and candidly with those differences is news that we, and indeed the world, must welcome."

Shevardnadze said of Bush's chemical weapons proposal: "It was a constructive statement in the spirit of the times, in the spirit of the tasks that we are facing, that the US is facing, and in a broader context, too."

British Foreign Secretary John Major said: "I don't think that was just rhetoric. I think the President has made some very positive moves. Clearly what we wish to see is an international convention on chemical weapons, and I think we will get that level, and we agree on inspections to verify that stockpiles are destroyed," Bush said.

Bush said the world was witnessing a "rise of freedom" and cited advances in Hungary, Poland, Latin America and Africa.

Bush said regional conflicts "may well threaten world peace as never before."

These are the three major elements of Bush's plan:

■ While working to complete a global agreement, the United States will eliminate more than 80 per cent of its stockpile "if the Soviet Union joins in cutting chemical weapons to an equal level, and we agree on inspections to verify that stockpiles are destroyed," Bush said.

■ Once an international treaty is signed, the United States will destroy more than 98 per cent of its current chemical weapons stockpile over an eight-year period, provided the Soviet Union joins the ban.

■ The remaining 2 per cent would be destroyed over the next two years after all countries capable of producing chemical weapons become partners to the agreement.

'Gandhi on his last leg'



Over one million people attended the opposition rally in New Delhi. (Reuters wirephoto)

Singh kicks off kick-out drive

One million rally

NEW DELHI, Sept. 25, (Agencies): Nearly one million people gathered today for a mammoth opposition rally against Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, whom speakers unanimously vowed to oust in this year's elections because they claimed his government is corrupt and incompetent.

Participants streamed into the Indian capital from across northern India for the meeting at New Delhi's Raj Path, where four hours speeches were delivered at the wide ceremonial boulevard and park near the houses of Parliament.

The rally originally was called to commemorate the 76th birthday of Devi Lal, the chief minister of northern Haryana state who is a strident critic of Rajiv. But in a rare display of unity, other key opposition leaders used the event to condemn the prime minister.

"The present government is on its last legs and virtually dead," said

Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the president of the centrist Janata Dal Party who is regarded as Rajiv's main rival. "Now only last rites need to be performed."

Rajiv must call general elections before the year's end, and the main opposition parties, despite having formed a loose coalition named "the national front," have yet to arise above factional infighting and unite against Rajiv's Congress (I) Party.

The opposition has focused its strategy on highlighting claims of alleged government corruption.

"This government has looted the future of this country," charged N.T. Rama Rao, the chief minister of eastern Andhra Pradesh and founder of the Telugu Desam Party. "It encourages corruption, thievery and forgery."

"Only if the entire opposition is united can we overthrow the Congress-ruled government at the center," said A.B. Vajpayee.

Lockerbie link to Palestinians seen

LONDON, Sept. 25, (Reuters): Investigations into the bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet over Scotland may point to a firm link with the arrest of 14 Palestinians in West Germany, according to the man leading the British inquiry.

Lord Fraser, Scotland's lord advocate, told the BBC in a television programme that new evidence had helped narrow the inquiry.

Bodies arrive as expert named to probe UTA blast

PARIS, Sept. 25, (UPI): A cargo plane arrived yesterday with the first bodies of victims of last week's bombing of a French DC-10 jet in Niger and the government named an anti-terrorist specialist to investigate the incident.

An Air Afrique cargo plane arrived at Le Bourget airport from Niamey, Niger, carrying the bodies of about 40 of the 171 victims of last Tuesday's in-air explosion of the UTA

flight from Chad to Paris, a Foreign Ministry statement said.

Relatives of the victims will be notified after identification of the bodies, which also will undergo autopsies to determine whether passengers inhaled gases from an explosion, officials said.

The autopsies and laboratory analysis of debris from the wreckage are a key element in

a criminal inquiry that was opened late Saturday after the DC-10's two "black box" flight recorders confirmed an explosion 29,700 feet above Niger's Tenere desert.

The Foreign Ministry said other plane-loads of bodies would be arriving over the next several days from Niger, where workers continued their grim search.

"We still have half the bodies to assemble,"

Dr Jean-Marie Becker said in a television interview yesterday from the remote site, where temperatures climb to 113 degrees during daylight hours.

Investigating judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere, considered France's top judicial specialist in fighting terrorism, was named on Saturday to head a criminal inquiry into the possible authors of the explosion.

The state prosecutor's office ordered an investigation of "parties unknown" for "assassinations, deliberate destruction of property and use of explosives" in connection with "a terrorist enterprise for subversion or attacks against the state."

Bruguiere has headed a number of anti-terrorist investigations, including the one that cracked the leftist French terrorist group

Direct Action in 1987.

Investigators from France's anti-terrorist brigade hoped the results of the autopsies and laboratory analysis of debris from the wreckage would help them pinpoint the type of explosive used to blow apart the jetliner.

The DC-10 crash had at least one earmark of the Dec 21, 1988, in-air explosion of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Lee to testify; seeks apology and retraction

Libel trial against Review starts

SINGAPORE, Sept. 25, (Kuna): Hearing of Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's libel suit against the Hong Kong-based Far Eastern Economic Review news magazine began today in the high court.

The trial, scheduled for 15 days, will see the prime minister

taking the witness stand this week.

Lee is suing the Review's former editor, Derek Davies, writer Michael Malik and the publisher over an article by Malik which appeared in the Dec 17, 1987 issue of the magazine.

Among other things, the arti-

cle gave an account of a news conference held at the Istana (presidential house) on June 2, 1987, at which Lee and Roman Catholic Archbishop Gregory Young spoke about a meeting they had on the arrest of 16 people by the internal security department on May 21.

The Review said that the article, headlined "New light on detentions," was based on information supplied by Father Edgar D'Souza, a former associate editor of the Catholic News, who was implicated in the alleged Marxist plot. He has since left priesthood and lives in Australia.

Lankan troops kill 2 radicals

COLOMBO, Sept. 25, (AP): Government troops killed two Sinhalese radicals and arrested 85 during search operations in the south where extremists have been waging an anti-government campaign, an official statement said today.

The operations are to be suspended for a three-day period beginning Wednesday under a government effort to restore peace in this violence-ravaged nation.

The government expects the Sinhalese radicals to surrender during the three-day ceasefire.

"The armed forces and the police will cease all operations like raids, searches and curfew and search, ambushes and tracking operations during the ceasefire," a statement issued by the information department said.

Two Sinhalese brothers were also killed by Sinhalese radicals in central Nuwara Eliya district yesterday. The deaths of the radicals also occurred yesterday.

Sinhalese radicals of the People's Liberation Front started a violent campaign against the Sri Lankan government after it signed a peace accord with India in July 1987 to end a Tamil insurrection for a separate homeland in the northeast.

Three Tamil militant groups controlling northeast provincial council tomorrow stage the first strike since a ceasefire was declared by the Indian peace-keeping force on Sept. 18, pamphlets distributed in the north and east proclaimed today.

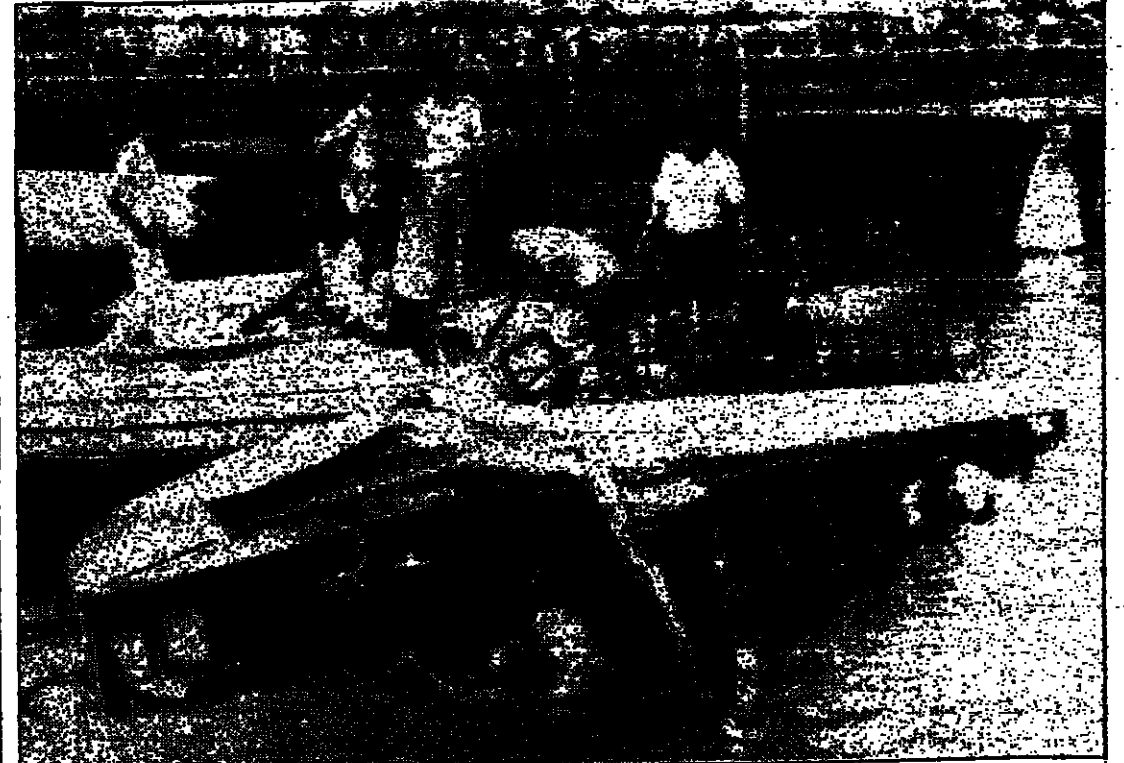
The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) and Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF) constituent members of the Tamil National Council have decided to hold the Tuesday strike in peaceful protest against the killing of Dr Rajini Thirumangalakudi, head of the department of medical faculty of the Jaffna University on Sept. 22, the posters declared, accusing the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of the foul deed.

The Tigers decided to commemorate on the same day the second death anniversary of the LTTE political leader Thirupavan who fast unto death two years ago in the name of Eelam (separate state).

But while Tiger supporters were erecting pandals in Jaffna for the event, ten miles from town in Pan-chatherappu this morning one postman and a school boy were killed, reports said. The LTTE immediately pinned blame on the IPKF.

A prominent politician whose party the Eksath Lanka Jathika Pakshaya (ELJP) was known to have connections with the underground extremist movement Jathika Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) was sceptical that the underground subversives would respond to the government's unilateral suspension of security operations.

Dr Gani Wijesekera, general-secretary of the ELJP said his party no longer had those connections with the JVP.



60 killed in bus plunge

Divers look for bodies in a partially submerged bus that plunged off a bridge north of Dhaka killing at least 50 people and injuring 40 (Reuters wirephoto)

Floating inferno

2 die in Danish ferry fire

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 25, (UPI): Two people died in a fire that broke out on a Danish ferry on its way from Sweden to Britain early today, Denmark's Navy announced.

The two, whose identification was not immediately available, were among 540 passengers and 120 crew on board the 15,000-ton Danish-owned Tor Scandinavia which was 90 miles off the Danish west coast.

Authorities reported the fire on board the Tor Scandinavia as being "fully under control" with the vessel making its way under its own steam to the Danish west coast port of Esbjerg.

The two bodies were found after the fire had been down by rescue personnel in smoke-gear," said Navy spokesman

Freddy Muller adding it was not clear whether the two were passengers or crew.

Previously, no-one was thought to have been hurt in the fire although one woman suffering from asthma had been taken off by helicopter.

The woman, and another two passengers removal were described by authorities as "a safety measure" and "not directly related to the fire. Their safety was always the top priority."

The Tor Scandinavia is slowly making way under her own steam to Esbjerg," said Maria Nielsen, a spokeswoman for DFDS, the Danish owners of the Tor Scandinavia.

"The passengers will be put on another ferry as soon as possible and taken to their destination,"

Nielsen said.

She said the time of arrival in Esbjerg of the vessel was not immediately known.

The vessel, which was on its way from the west coast Swedish port of Goteborg to Britain's east coast ferry terminal at Harwich, sent out distress signals at 5 am (0400 GMT) today saying a serious fire had broken out.

The signals were picked up by a West German vessel, the Pollux, which contacted Denmark's Navy operative command at Esbjerg. Tor Scandinavia's home port and 100 miles from the burning vessel.

Danish authorities said communications with the ferry were difficult because the Tor Scandinavia's radio room appeared to have been damaged.

Suspects argued

Leave and let die rape victim

NEW YORK, Sept. 25, (AP): One of the teenagers accused of raping a Central Park jogger last spring claims the group argued over whether to kill her to keep her from identifying them, a newspaper reported today.

A previously unreleased videotaped statement by one of the suspects shows that some of the attackers tried unsuccessfully to prevent the others from further harming the woman after she was raped on April 19, New York Newsday said.

The attack on the young investment banker, which left her brain-damaged, and the beating of several other people in New York's Central Park the same evening drew widespread attention.

Khary Wise, 17, told prosecutor Elizabeth Lederer in his second videotaped statement that one suspect, Steve Lopez, wanted to kill the

woman but that another, Yusuf Salaam, said: "Don't kill her, man. Don't kill her. Bad enough you're raping her. Don't kill her, man."

But Wise said he and Salaam, 15, could not persuade the others—Lopez, 15, Kevin Richardson, 14 and Raymond Santana, 15—to leave the woman alone after the gang rape, the newspaper said.

"Kevin and Raymond picked up a rock... Kevin hit her in the face with a rock. That's what knocked her out, definitely knocked her out," Newsday quoted Wise as saying.

He said the victim was struck with bricks and cut with a knife and fingernails before he could not watch any more.

3,000 die in floods

BEIJING, Sept. 25, (AP): Summer floods killed nearly 3,000 people and inundated some 14 million hectares (34.6 million acres) of farmland this year, China's state flood control headquarters said today.

Yang Zhenhui, deputy chief of the headquarters, told the official Xinhua news agency that the worst hit were the coastal province of Zhejiang, Jiangxi in the southeast and Sichuan in the southwest.

Earlier reports said more than 1,500 people died in torrential rains and flooding this year. Sichuan, China's most populous province with 100 million people.

Zhejiang was hit last week by a typhoon, the second of the summer, that left 162 dead and 354 missing.

Yang said flooding in a few major rivers had been more serious than usual this year, although effective flood-control measures had prevented heavy damage.

Teresa improving

Heart monitoring continues

CALCUTTA, Sept. 25, (AP): Nobel laureate Mother Teresa has experienced no chest pains for a week and her condition continues to improve more than two weeks after she suffered a heart attack, the hospital said today.

But doctors continued to closely monitor Mother Teresa's weak heart, said the statement by Woodlands Nursing Home, the hospital where she is recovering.

The 79-year-old Roman Catholic nun was hospitalized on Sept 5 with a high fever and an irregular heartbeat. She suffered a heart attack three days later, and then continued to suffer from chest pains and a fever.

However, her condition stabilised a week ago, the hospital said. Sister Joel, a nun at Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, also said doctors had removed an intravenous tube.

"She is much better," she said of Mother Teresa.

Bingo Day 9

34 59 48 42

Penguin denies secret date for Rushdie

LONDON, Sept. 25, (UPI): A spokesman for Viking Penguin books denied today it had a set "secret date" for the publication of a paperback version of Salman Rushdie's controversial bestseller "The Satanic Verses."

The Observer newspaper reported yesterday that the publisher had chosen a secret date to begin publishing the novel in paperback form and that it would appear in bookstores sometime this winter.

"No secret date has been fixed for publication," Bob Gregory, a spokesman for the publisher of Rushdie's novel, told United Press International. Gregory said the publishers would not confirm or

deny it had made a decision to publish "The Satanic Verses" in paperback.

He said that because of the highly-charged atmosphere surrounding the contents of the novel, which is regarded as blasphemous by Muslims and has provoked death threats against Rushdie and violent protests against bookstores, Viking Penguin has consistently declined to comment on the book's paperback publication.

A source in the publisher's office in London, who refused to be identified, said, "all that happens is that we get more bloody letters and threatening phonecalls."

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Single system solution to control Europe air traffic

LONDON, Sept 25 (AP) — A single system should replace the complicated patchwork now directing airplanes flying over Europe in the most crowded skies in the world, the editor of "Jane's Airport Equipment" said today.

David Rider also wrote of the "waves" still being caused by deregulation in the US airline industry, estimating it has saved American passengers \$100 billion in the last 11 years.

He said the December bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, has caused "major reverberations" with govern-

ments, aviation authorities, airlines and airports worldwide all trying to find ways to increase security.

The introduction of new systems or controlling personnel baggage has gone some way to reduce the risk, he said in the introduction to the authoritative yearbook.

"However, it is always going to be extremely difficult to find the right balance between providing reasonable security while seeking to minimize the inconvenience to pas-

sengers and ensuring complete security, at great cost to passenger and airline-airport authority," Rider said.

Rider said 42 air traffic control centres now use 22 different systems to communicate with one another in Europe "in a most inefficient and time-consuming way."

A flight from London to Athens requires the co-operation of seven countries and 50 air traffic controllers using telex and telephones and spending a total of 35 man hours to

arrange the routes and timings, he said.

Bottlenecks in north-south routes are often caused by the fact that Greece has no civil radar network, he said. Controllers there rely on radio communication with pilots, so aircraft must stay 60 miles (95 kms) apart instead of 3 miles (4.8 kms) apart as they do over Britain.

An aircraft flying the 762 nautical miles between Frankfurt to Madrid passes through the control of seven centres, he said. In the United States, a flight of 751 nautical miles

from Chicago to Boston passes through only three centres, he said.

"Congestion in the air as well as on the ground is a major problem in Europe and it is now deemed to be the worst in the world," Rider wrote.

The British charter airline, Britannia Airways, reported that 40 per cent of its flights in April were delayed by air traffic control problems and the average delay was 90 minutes to two hours, he said.

A single European system is the "obvious

solution," he said. "But one which seems unpalatable to many countries since if implemented correctly, it would mean the control of both civil and military airspace throughout Western Europe."

Rider said that in the United States, fares have declined by one-fifth, after inflation is considered, because of increased competition resulting from deregulation and the development of hub airports. Increased traffic has, however, led to delays because of concentration of traffic at focal points, he said.

NEW YORK: Sammy Davis Jr was driven to death by "a terrible insecurity," but the veteran entertainer says he stopped using them after a talk with good friend Frank Sinatra.

"He was telling me and looking right at me with his steely blues, man, looking me right in the eye. He said, stop it. ... so long as you're going to do that, I don't want to be around you," Davis said in Sunday's Parade magazine.

"And I said, 'Frank I'll stop, I promise.' That was nine years ago."

Davis, who was diagnosed last week with throat cancer, credited his wife, Althea, and Barbara Sinatra for arranging the journey together with Sinatra. (AP)

INDIANAPOLIS: Gov. Evan Bayh almost fell off a platform as he proclaimed emergency medical services week, but he would have been in good hands.

Nearly 40 ambulances and hundreds of emergency medical personnel from around the state.

They were at the Indiana statehouse on Wednesday to hear the governor's proclamation when Bayh's chair slipped from the small platform.

State Health Commissioner Woodrow Myers, who was sitting next to the governor, helped keep the state's chief executive from falling. Bayh caught himself, then joked that he nearly needed emergency services himself. (AP)

OTSEGO, Michigan: A high school's war on drugs turned violent when an angry mother hit the principal in the jaw for calling police to question her son.

The woman, whose name was withheld, was arrested on Monday for assault and battery after allegedly punching Otsego High School principal James Leyndyke, police chief Elton Goswick said.

Leyndyke called police on Friday because he suspected a student of selling drugs, Goswick said. When the youth was told police were called, he fled on foot.

The boy's mother later showed up at the school, angry that police were called, Goswick said. (AP)

Drive-in opera First of its kind

OSLO, Sept 25 (AP) — The Norwegian National Opera tried to bring 19th century arias to the masses this weekend with a drive-in performance. Many viewers, mostly on foot, found opera loud but hard to see.

A 70-square-metre (225-square-foot) movie screen dangled from a crane above Oslo's Youngstorget marketplace on Saturday for what was billed as the world's first drive-in opera. The programme was an act from the 19th century comedy "The Barber Seville."

Police estimated there was room for 250 cars in the closed-off marketplace. Only about 70 cars parked there during the performance, but hundreds of other spectators came on foot.

Shown on the screen were dim images of the opera's live performance from its regular theater. Stacks of loudspeakers blasted the normally quiet city centre with crisp arias.

"It started as a crazy notion but we went ahead anyway," said state opera spokesman Terje Baskerud. It was inspired by US drive-in movies, he said.

LOS ANGELES: Two workers at a mission for the impoverished, and a pair of police detectives who were just driving by, rescued Kevin Dobson from a knife-wielding transient on the television star donated clothing to the poor.

Dobson, who portrays Mack McLuskey on the popular Knot Landing series, is a regular donor to the downtown Midnight Mission.

The actor was able to break free from the would-be robber on Wednesday outside the shelter, police officer Mike Schwehr said.

Two mission employees came to the actor's aid, Schwehr said. (AP)

VICTORIA, British Columbia: Queen Elizabeth II's first cousin, Alexandra, is not only a princess but the honorary head of a regiment, and she was to present her troops with a puppy and a new flag Saturday.

The princess arrived on Wednesday for the 75th anniversary of the Canadian Scottish Regiment. She brought along a new mascot, an 8-week-old St Bernard puppy, and a new regiment flag referred to as the "Queen's Colour".

Members of the regiment won four Victoria Crosses in France during World War I. The regiment also served in World War II in France, Holland and Germany.

MASARYKTOWN, Florida: It looked like an old roadside barn with a rusted tractor outside, pine cones and a weather vane resting on its tin roof.

Inside, however, was a sophisticated \$500,000 hydroponic marijuana operation, police say.

On each side of the weather vane was a slowly turning, onion-shaped ventilation duct that churned out the climate-controlled air for the elaborate hydroponic operation in which plants are grown without soil.

Pasco sheriff's officials, tipped by a probation officer on Wednesday, discovered 503 plants of imported Dutch marijuana, from seedlings to three feet (one metre) tall. (AP)

NEW YORK: The Museum of Modern Art on Sunday opened the first exhibition in tribute to the pioneering cubist art of Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque, the greatest art collaboration of the 20th century.

Picasso and Braque took the art of the 19th century to the threshold of the 20th century's modern movement from 1907 to 1914 with paintings and collages of natural objects reduced to geometric planes and viewed from all angles. Many artists have never seen things the same way since.

Although it has taken the public a long time to catch up, the shattering of academic art imagery and the restructuring of its shards into cubist, abstract, expressionist, pop and op art generally has been accepted as the century's chief contribution to art history. (UPI)

NEW YORK: The photographs are well known: The great Pablo Picasso playing on the beach with his young daughter, Paloma, or swimming in the Mediterranean.

Those shots were a bit misleading, Paloma says in the October issue of Fame magazine.

"He would pretend to swim; he couldn't swim," the designer revealed, according to the magazine. "I haven't told many people that he was faking swimming."

When Paloma was born in 1949, Picasso was 67. Her mother, the artist Françoise Gilot, was 27. (AP)

8 die in weekend of gang violence

LOS ANGELES, Sept 25 (UPI) — Eight people were killed and five wounded in a weekend outbreak of gang violence, including three slain early yesterday by a half-dozen men armed with rifles and pistols, authorities said.

Cornelio Perez, 18, Vincent Salazar, 28, and a 17-year-old boy, all of suburban Pomona, were hit in a flurry of rifle and pistol shots fired by three to six gang members, Pomona police Sgt David Johnson said.

Police found the victims lying wounded on the sidewalk and in the street, Johnson said.

Salazar and the 17-year-old boy were pronounced dead at the scene of the 2 am attack, Johnson said. Perez died at a hospital.

Detectives said the victims, who had no gang affiliations, had earlier been involved in a disturbance with other Hispanic men at a convenience food store a few blocks away.

"This happened right in the middle of a very nice area and we have a lot of neighbours who are very upset," Johnson said.

About two hours later, a 22-year-old reputed gang member was fatally shot by a hamburger stand in south Los Angeles, Sgt Thomas Haley said.

"Two suspected gang members walked up to him and shot him in the head," Haley said. The victim, whose name was withheld, died at a hospital. The assailants remained at large.

Earlier, in south central Los Angeles, Samuel White, 15, was fatally shot as he stood talking with a young man on a street corner about 9:40 pm Saturday, Sgt. Thomas Jones said.

The shots were fired by three to four men standing east of the intersection, Jones said.

The suspects fled in a car.

Another 15-year-old boy was killed in a shooting at a party in east Los Angeles about 11:10 pm, Sheriff's deputies said. He died at Santa Maria Hospital.

Another gang-related shooting killed Jose Jose Espana, 19, of Venice, about 1:55 am Saturday, police said.

Espana was wounded in the back as he and two friends were riding their bicycles, Sgt Jeff Bender said. Espana was pronounced dead at the scene.

The suspects were described as four men in a red car, he said.

Another man was shot to death during a fight with gang members at a popular Lynwood Eatery about 1:15 am Saturday, Sheriff's deputy George Ducoulombier said.

The gunman shot Richard Trevino, 19, several times in the torso. He died about four hours later at Long Beach Memorial Hospital, Ducoulombier said. No one else was hit by the gunfire.

Lashawnte Taylor, 18, was arrested at the restaurant and booked on suspicion of murder. A second suspect fled the scene.

Arrest statistics

The annual numbers of arrests in five states increased 18 per cent between 1983 and 1986, with drug offense arrests up 52 per cent over the four years, a Justice Department study showed.

The study by the department's Bureau of Justice Statistics also shows that drug convictions increased 71 per cent and jail and prison sentences were up 104 per cent between 1983 and 1986 in the five states — California, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

On an annual basis, the number of incarcerations in the five states grew by 28 per cent, said the study, released yesterday.

"Drug offenses showed the largest growth during the period — arrests increased 52 per cent, prosecutions rose by 61 per cent, convictions grew by 71 per cent and prison and jail sentences were up by 104 per cent," the study said.

Of the 1.9 million people arrested on felony charges in the five states, about 39 per cent were sentenced to jail or prison terms.

Sixty-two per cent of the 1.9 million arrests ended in convictions. Of those convictions, the study said, 18 per cent were sentenced to probation, 15 per cent received a fine or other penalty other than incarceration, 50 per cent were sent to a local jail — usually for less than a year — and 17 per cent were sentenced to a state prison term.



Surfing in Sydney's wastes

Surfer Andrew Kidman wears a plastic gas mask while surfing at Sydney's Dee Why beach Sept 13. Kidman and some fellow surfers have taken to wearing the masks to highlight the dangers of domestic sewage and industrial waste pollution on Sydney's beaches. (Reuters wirephoto)

Disney workers face charges of wild birds abuse

ORLANDO, Florida, Sept 25 (UPI) — The company that built an entertainment empire around Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Bambi and other lovable creatures faces charges involving the abuse and killing of wild birds, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The Orlando Sentinel quoted state investigators as saying workers at Walt Disney World's Discovery Island fired a rifle at hawks, beat vultures to death with a stick and destroyed the nests and eggs

of egrets and ibises. They said the supervisor at the 11-acre zoological park sanctioned the alleged abuses.

The two-month investigation has resulted in 16 state and federal charges against Disney and five employees, most involving the deaths of vultures crammed into a tiny, overheated shed for days with limited food and water, the Sentinel reported.

The Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums is considering launching its own investigation, citing an 18-page report by the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, and could revoke Disney's accreditation.

The Sentinel said Disney officials at first blamed the problems on misunderstandings about the conditions of a federal permit that allowed the company to trap and relocate 100 black vultures. But state officials ridiculed that response. When confronted with details including the confinement of 72 vultures in a windowless, airless shed.

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Quality of life slipping

Big Apple gets rotten

NEW YORK, Sept 25, (AP): Vanessa Campbell senses the quality of life in the city deteriorating around her every day.

She sees it in the legions of beggars working the subways and train stations for spare change. She hears it in the furtive whispers of street-corner dope peddlers. She fears it when reading the news of street gangs attacking people on the street.

"It's gotten worse with all the drugs and violence," says Mrs Campbell, a US post office employee who has lived in New York all her 27 years. "Now you can't even go out the door without looking both ways. When you pick up the paper or turn on the TV, it's always drugs or somebody got shot. I work at night, so I'm always scared."

Throughout the nation's largest city, from its skyscraping symbols of capitalism on the tip of Manhattan to the middle-class bungalows of Queens, many people are complaining that the quality of life is deteriorating.

The problems of crime and drug abuse have dominated debate in the city's mayoral race over the past several months. In just one month, June, 164 people were killed — an average of 5.4 slayings a day, police statistics show.

"When we do interviews with people, they tell us that New York is becoming more and more like a Third World city with its legions of homeless," says William Kornblum, an urban sociologist and professor at the city University of New York's graduate school.

The city's train and bus stations have become makeshift shelters for the homeless.

Hundreds of thousands of business-suit commuters, armed with briefcases, eyes straight ahead, stream through the stations every day, past outstretched hands and the same refrain, "can you spare some change?"

Along 42nd street, commuters rush from the port authority bus terminal past knots of street people, self-employed crack dealers and rows of neon porn shops. The smell of stale urine wafts in the air, broken glass crunches underfoot, winos sleep off their last drunk on the sidewalk.

"Personally, ... I think that life in the city on many fronts has been improving, but that on other it has been declining so that the picture is mixed," says Kornblum.

"But over the past few years I think the areas that have been declining have been outstripping the areas where it has been improving. If that continues, I think the future of the city is very bleak," he said.

Saskia Sassen, professor of Urban Planning at Columbia University, sees a similar pattern.

"I think the key issue in trying to understand what has been happening with the quality of life in New York City is ... economic polarisation," he says. "There is a segment of the population for which the overall quality of life has been increasing. For people with money, there are more fine restaurants, more theatres, gentrified neighbourhoods, that are beautiful."

It's these attractions, coupled with New York's fast-lane lifestyle and job advancement opportunities for those who make it, that draw people to the city and keep them here in spite of the problems.

"On the other hand," Ma Sassen says, "there is more growth at the bottom. There is more underemployment. There is more homelessness. There is more inequality."

Some sociologists and residents identify these problems as contributing to a declining quality of life.

day, says detective James Coleman of the city police department. In the same period, the number of rapes increased 59 per cent, from 2,141 to 3,412, and robberies, which include street muggings, went up 17 per cent, from 74,102 to 86,578, an average of 237 a day.

● **DRUG ABUSE.** The number of narcotics arrests has jumped 69 per cent, from 52,479 in 1970 to 88,641 in 1988, Coleman said. Authorities say the use of crack, a cheap, smokable form of cocaine, has reached epidemic proportions, fueling street crime.

● **SCHOOL AND YOUTH PROBLEMS.** Street crime sometimes spills into the schools, disrupting education, officials say. Social problems are contributing to an increase in child abuse and neglect, they add.

The number of cases of students caught with weapons in school jumped 28 per cent, from 1,495 during the 1986-87 school year to 1,916 during the 1987-88 year, said Frank Sobrino, a spokesman for the New York City Board of Education.

The number of child abuse cases handled yearly in the city has grown 277 per cent, from 9,297 in 1977 to 35,118 in 1987, said Deborah Adler, a spokesman for the New York State Department of Social Services.

● **COST OF LIVING.** Housing costs in the New York area are among the highest in the United States, and it is one of the world's most expensive cities, officials say. For the second quarter of 1989, a single-family home in the New York metro area sold for a median price of \$185,200, ranking it sixth highest in the nation, according to the National Association of Realtors.

For Winifred Flynn, 61, a waitress, the signs of New York's declining quality of life abound on the streets, in the faces of the homeless.

"I know they're homeless, but there should be some place for them. You never used to see that," she says.

The problem of homelessness "became prominently noticeable in the early 1980s," says Marcuse, the Columbia professor.

"This is the dirty underside of prosperity. This is the result of gentrification," Marcuse says.

But affordable housing is in short supply. The city has 166,000 low-cost public housing units, and 90,000 families are on a waiting list for vacancies, says Scott Turner, assistant commissioner for policy analysis at the City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. An additional 75,000 families are on a waiting list to receive rent subsidies, he says.

Ms. Sassen, the urban planner, says about 1 million middle-class people left the city in the 1970s and moved to the suburbs.

"We've always had poverty. We've always had crime. We've always had people dropping out of school," she says.

"But what is happening now is so much more pronounced, that it raises the question — has something fundamentally changed that is making it so much worse?"

Sassen believes the problems are caused by a transformation of the city's economy from one based on manufacturing and industrial production to one fueled by white-collar service industries, such as international trading and sales.

Electricity shortages, leading to so-called brown-outs, are now a bad memory from the early 1970s because enough new power plants have been built, says Patricia Richard.

Crime and drugs, perhaps more than anything else, most often are cited as the chief culprits in New York's declining quality of life.

"The problem of drugs is just pervasive," says Anne Reimer, executive director of the New York society for the prevention of cruelty to children. "You have neglect (in the home). The children aren't going to school. They aren't being properly fed. When you investigate it, nine times out of 10 drugs are involved. All of the money and energy is going into obtaining drugs."

1 billion people ill or hungry in the world

WASHINGTON, Sept 25, (AP): One out of every five humans — about one billion people — is suffering from disease, poor health or malnourishment, the World Health Organisation said.

The WHO director-general, Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, said the greatest burden of disease is in poor countries of Africa, Asia and South America.

"This is a preventable tragedy because the developed world has the resources and technology to end common diseases world-wide," he said in a statement accompanying a WHO report. "The missing ingredient is the will to help the developing countries."

"The rich countries must transfer technology, health manpower and money, because the poorest countries can't help themselves," Nakajima said.

He said health expenditures in the poorest countries average about \$5 per person, while in the United States, Canada, Japan and Western Europe, health expenditures average about \$400 a person.

Despite the gloomy picture, Nakajima said there has been enough health care improvement in the last 40 years to raise human life expectancy from 41 to 59.7 years in the developing countries.

Current world-wide health conditions cited in the report include:

● **Vaccine-preventable diseases:** About 2.8 million children annually die from such preventable diseases as polio, tetanus, measles, diphtheria and whooping cough.

● **Diarrhoeal diseases:** About 4 million children die annually from uncontrolled diarrhoea caused by bacteria or parasites.

● **Acute respiratory infections:** Pneumonia kills about 4 million children per year and most such ailments could be cured for about 4 dollars per

episode, the WHO said.

● **Tuberculosis:** About 10 million new cases develop world-wide annually, and 3 million die of the disease each year.

● **Sexually-transmitted diseases:** One out of every 20 teenagers and young adults world-wide contract one form annually. These diseases include at least two, AIDS and genital herpes, for which there is no cure.

● **Malaria:** Almost half the world's population live where this mosquito-borne disease is present. There are about 100 million clinical cases annually.



People suffer

Residents line up for water and food outside a Salvation Army location after hurricane Hugo swept through Charleston, South Carolina, last week

causing billions of dollars worth of damage and leaving thousands homeless. (Reuter wirephoto)

St Croix trying to curb spill

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Sept 25, (UPI): Workers tried yesterday to control a leak from a fuel oil tank in the US Virgin Islands after hurricane Hugo, the Coast Guard said.

As 7,000 gallons (26,500 l) of oil continued to leak daily from the US Virgin Islands' water and power authority storage tank on storm-ravaged St Croix, 25 technicians worked to repair the tank containing 1.68 million gallons (6.36 million l) oil.

Coast Guard officials in Puerto Rico said some oil had spilled over the containment dikes into the Christianstad harbour but winds helped control the spread of the slick.

"The northern wind has prevented the oil from seeping more than a quarter mile down the coast," a Coast Guard spokesman said.

Coast Guard pollution experts were at the site while workers used vacuum trucks and a storage barge in an effort to remove the oil from the tank damaged when Hugo ravaged the island a week ago.

Hurricane Hugo blasted Puerto Rico on Sept 18 with 125-mph (201 kph) winds and driving rain, devouring homes in the northeastern region of the Caribbean island, including the capital.

Puerto Rico Gov. Rafael Hernandez Colon and the federal emergency management agency announced yesterday that cement houses would be built for families whose wooden homes were turned into splinters by Hugo.

The governor said he did not know exactly how many families would be helped by the programme, but 11,000 people still are in shelters on the US commonwealth island.

President Bush declared Puerto Rico a disaster area after receiving the governor's estimate that Hugo caused \$200 million in damage to the island.

Hugo victims suffer more

No power, no food

CHARLESTON, South Carolina, Sept 25, (Agencies): Cold, driving rain pouring through roofless and damaged homes today compounded the misery of thousands of people struggling to dig out of the destruction left by hurricane Hugo.

Hundreds of thousands still were without electricity or safe drinking water and about 25,000 of the 75,000 people left homeless by the storm remained in makeshift shelters with food, fuel and other necessities running short.

Authorities in rain gear began searching isolated localities today for more victims of Hugo, which devastated one-third of the state and caused more than \$2 billion in damage.

"There's no bread, there's no meat," 21-year-old Harold Washington said at a supermarket that had doughnuts and peanut butter but lacked staples. "You can't survive like that. Things just aren't working fast enough."

Washington, who lives with his mother and four siblings, said the family was burning candles at night and washing clothes by hand. They worried that the water they were using to brush their teeth was contaminated.

Gov. Carroll Campbell said there were areas that officials still had not checked for bodies and survivors, and added that

damage was expected to "far exceed" the \$2 billion officials estimate Hugo caused to buildings and homes in Charleston county.

The storm killed 19 people in the United States, 24 in the Caribbean and left thousands homeless.

"We are still looking for families and people, individuals located in isolated areas," Campbell said. "They may be in shelters. We just don't know."

Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley said the rain "is adding insult to injury."

"Thirty per cent of the roofs in the city are damaged," the mayor said. "The roof at city hall is only temporary. We've got rain pouring in there."

Rainwater gushed through a 10-foot-wide hole in the roof of a hotel a few yards from the closed registration desk as guests emerged at the end of a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

"It's pouring buckets of water over there," desk clerk David Hodieme said.

The 155-room hotel — operating with the help of a generator and candles — was damaged when Hugo's high winds hurled a towering sign through its roof.

"You can't write an estimate in the rain. It's nearly impossible," said Skeeter Hardy, an automobile insurance adjuster.

Bogota rocked by blasts again

Proposal to contact drug lords

BOGOTA, Sept 25, (UPI): Five bombs exploded in various areas of Bogota and two others were deactivated in apparent continuation of the cocaine traffickers' war against the government, police said.

The explosions occurred as soccer fans rode through the streets waving flags and honking horns to celebrate Ecuador's victory over Paraguay.

Three banks, a supermarket and a travel agency were hit in the attacks last evening, police said. There were no immediate reports of injuries. Two other bombs were dismantled by members of a police bomb disposal unit.

At least 27 bombs have exploded in Bogota since Sept 16, as assailants believed linked to the cocaine cartels appeared to shift a bombing campaign from the northwest city of Medellin to the capital, where banks, state offices, political headquarters, theatres and businesses have been targets.

Police said the bomb outside the supermarket last night contained at least 30 pounds (13.6 kgs) of dynamite. The surge of violence has led the freshly resigned justice minister to suggest Colombia's government should consider establishing a dialogue with leaders of the cocaine cartels that declared war on the nation's institutions last month.

"The government said it would not dialogue (with the drug traffickers) but we will have to see how everything develops," said Monica de Greiff, whose resignation on Friday was followed by those of two key Justice Ministry officials.

"I do not believe the decisions of a government should be very strict," de Greiff told the daily El Tiempo newspaper yesterday.

A court hearing was scheduled today for four suspects who officials said confessed to the Aug 8 assassination of leading presidential hopeful Sen Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento, whose murder sparked a public outcry and steered the government's resolve to wage war against the cartels.

De Greiff's resignation and those of National Narcotics Council Secretary General Zoraida Mendelweison and Justice Ministry Legal Adviser Martha Zamora fuelled speculation that the Supreme Court may be preparing to declare newly reinstated US extradition treaty unconstitutional.

De Greiff added to the uncertainty by reporting that there is mounting top-level dissatisfaction with the treaty and with the government's seizure of drug traffickers' property.

Colombia's president has called extradition and property seizure keys to the nation's war on the powerful cocaine cartels.

"Philosophically a majority of the ministers did not like the idea (of extradition and) judging Colombians abroad," De Greiff said.

Colombia's super-rich cocaine conglomerates are spreading out across Latin America, prompting fears that the region's drug problem could become "a thousand times worse."

Latin American and international drug experts said Colombian drug barons were branching out into other Latin American countries even before the Colombian president ordered a crackdown on cocaine traffickers last month.

The trend gained momentum after authorities arrested more than 10,000 suspects, seized properties worth hundreds of millions of dollars, confiscated scores of aircraft and destroyed record amounts of cocaine, experts said.

According to US estimates, cocaine exports from Colombia to the United States, the world's richest market for the drug, have been cut by as much as 50 per cent.

Representatives from the Venezuelan and Colombian armies are meeting in Santa Marta, Colombia, to co-ordinate anti-drug efforts, Venezuelan Defence Minister Filmo Lopez Uzcategui said yesterday.

Smuggling drugs Swallows surge

MIAMI, Sept 25, (AP): US customs agents, accustomed to seeing travellers use exotic methods to smuggle drugs into this country, are noticing an increase in the dangerous practice of swallowing cocaine to avoid detection.

Plainclothes inspectors roving the huge customs area at Miami international airport are capturing an average of a half-dozen of what they called "internals" every week, said senior customs inspector George Dickinson.

The swallows are taken to a hospital prison ward to pass the sealed pellets of cocaine, with the help of laxatives.

In one recent week, among those taken into custody were a 45-year-old man who arrived on a flight from Bogota, Colombia, after swallowing 120 packets totalling a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of cocaine; two men on another flight from Bogota who ingested 226 drug packets between them; and two men who flew in from Jamaica with a total of 100 packets of cocaine and hashish in their systems.

So far this year, 64 people "packed from top to bottom" with such ingested cocaine packets have been taken into custody compared with 25 for all of last year, Dickinson said. The majority of drug seizures by agents at the airport in the past three months have been from internals, he said.

"It's becoming more prevalent due to extensive outbound searches in Colombia," he said.

Colombian authorities stepped up their pat-downs of US-bound travellers about six to eight months ago, Dickinson said, promoting many would-be smugglers to stop carrying drugs on their person.

Once people are targeted, they are taken aside for an in-depth interview and a decision is made whether to transport them to Jackson Memorial Hospital to recover the drugs if they don't produce them at the airport.

"We have started to see this 10 years ago, the packets were hand-made things that tended to dissolve or break apart," said Dr. Kathleen Schrank, director of Jackson's Emergency Care Centre. "Things have gotten a whole lot more sophisticated."

"Uncut cocaine in that potency, when it escapes into the system, is lethal," said US customs spokesman Cliff Stallings.



Standing upright

Pope John Paul II, warning of potential abuses in modern science, called on scientists yesterday to respect the church's moral and ethical teachings.

The Pope also praised Galileo, signalling the Pisan astronomer's rehabilitation 450 years after he was condemned by the church for teaching that the Earth revolves around the sun.

On the last day of his three-day trip to Tuscany, John Paul spoke to the faculty and students of the University of Pisa, where Galileo studied and taught in the late 1500s.

The church denounced Galileo's theory as dangerous to the faith, summoned Galileo to Rome in 1633 and made him renounce his beliefs. He was sentenced to enforced residence in Siena.

Picture shows the Pope walking in Piazza del Miracol with the back-drop of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. (Reuter wirephoto)

Ortega nominated; accord with US sought

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Sept 25, (AP): The ruling Sandinista Party yesterday nominated President Daniel Ortega to head its slate of candidates for next year's national elections, with Vice-President Sergio Ramirez as his running mate.

Earlier in the day, the convention approved a 31-page platform promising among other things, better health care, economic growth, and a "respectful accord" with the United States.

Interior Minister Tomas Borge, himself a dark horse, introduced the nominations last

night, and the 1,746 delegates to the great convention approved the choices by acclamation.

Ortega, 44, who led the leftist Sandinista National Liberation Front to power with the 1979 overthrow of dictator Anastasio Somoza, was a sho-in from the start and is considered a moderate.

But there had been uncertainty as to who would take the No. 2 spot.

There were reports that Ramirez, 47, a lawyer and novelist who helped moderate

the Sandinista image, wanted to retire from public life to dedicate himself full-time to writing books.

But Borge, the only surviving founder of the Sandinista Front and a hard-liner, would have to give up the powerful Interior Ministry for the largely ceremonial vice-presidency.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will go to Nicaragua in early October, the official News Agency Tass said today.



Ortega and Ramirez (left) raise their hands in victory after being nominated. (Reuter wirephoto)

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Court visits Palme site

STOCKHOLM, Sept 25, (UPI): The appeal case of a Swedish drug addict convicted of the 1986 murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme, today reached its halfway mark with the court convening mid-evening at the scene of the crime.

Birgitta Blom, president of the court of appeal, decided last week that the bench this evening at 10.15 pm (20.15 GMT) was to visit the murder site in downtown Stockholm to better understand the conditions surrounding the murder.

So far nothing new has emerged in the appellate court to weaken the widespread legal reservations over the guilty verdict handed down by the lower Stockholm district court.

Christer Pettersson, 42, a self-declared drug addict and alcoholic was found guilty of the murder in the lower court, but the decision was split, with serious dissenting statements from the only two legally trained judges on the 8-person panel.

In the appeal hearings so far, 20 witnesses have repeated testimony given in the district court almost word for word, while outside the court police intensified their already frantic search for the murder weapon, believed to be a Smith and Wesson Magnum.

Detectives now say they may at least have found a steer to the gun in the form of a Finnish citizen who has been interrogated three times about a bank robbery in the early 1980s.

Police say forensic evidence shows that the same package of ammunition was used in the bank robbery as in the murder of Palme.

"I can't say anything about the result of our investigation of the Finn," said deputy chief Ingemar Krossell.

"We will continue to question the man and if we can tie him to the robbery, we will try to find out what happened to the ammunition and the weapon," he added.

"The lead isotope in the ammunition used by the bank robber is identical with that of the bullet that killed Olof Palme," Krossell said.

Without the murder weapon the police case stands and falls with the testimony of Palme's widow Lisbeth since prosecutors have been unable to provide a confession, any forensic evidence or a clear-cut motive linking Pettersson to the crime.

For the second time last week, Lisbeth Palme identified Pettersson in court and testified she saw him closely seconds after the shots that killed her husband.

But controversy has surrounded her testimony, not only because judges questioned her ability to register a face while in a state of shock, but also because of conditions she imposed on police investigators for her cooperation.

Dialysis
Tours for patients

TOKYO, Sept 25, (AP): Unable to hold steady jobs because of their frequent, time-consuming operations, Japanese suffering from kidney failure have rarely been able to travel far from their local hospitals.

But now they can travel abroad more easily.

James Nagayo, a spokesman for the Japan Travel Bureau, said today that Japan's national travel agency has begun sponsoring trips for kidney dialysis patients to Hawaii, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Required to commute to a hospital every three or four days to cleanse their blood mechanically, dialysis patients in the past have had difficulty arranging travel abroad.

The new tours will enable travellers to receive the four- or five-hour dialysis operation once during a stay in Hong Kong and Singapore and twice in Hawaii, Nagayo said.



Going back
A Vietnamese soldier holds a Cambodian girl during the final troop withdrawal ceremony held in the capital. Thousands of Vietnamese troops paraded through Phnom Penh heading back home. (Reuters wirephoto)

Quayle sees era of co-operation

Treaty with Japan backed

TSUKUBA, Japan, Sept 25, (AP): US Vice-President Dan Quayle said today a new Japan-US research venture was a "major step" in peaceful space exploration.

Quayle and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu agreed earlier in the day for their nations to co-operate on a project to measure the effects of solar radiation on the Earth's magnetic field.

"Today was a significant day for space co-operation between the United States and Japan," Quayle told reporters after touring space research facilities in Tsukuba, east of Tokyo.

"We have taken a major step forward in international co-operation in the peaceful exploration of space," said Quayle, who chairs the US National Space Council.

Quayle also emphasized the United States' commitment to its security treaty with Japan. The agreement, under which 50,000 US troops are based in Japan, has become a focus of interest after recent election successes by the Japan Socialist Party. The main beneficiary of a series of scandals that have hurt the governing Liberal Democratic Party.

Seeking to win over more moderate voters, the socialists, who long have opposed the treaty, have said they would keep the defence pact but seek to amend it.

Quayle, in Japan on an Asian tour, has emphasized a "global partnership" with Japan rather than dwelling on serious trade issues between the two nations.

Japan has been cited under new US trade legislation dubbed "Super 301" and could face retaliation for what US officials charge is its refusal to buy competitively priced US-made satellites.

"Japan and the United States will have a partnership in space activities. Super 301 will be treated separately. That issue should not be a hindrance in co-operation in space," Quayle said.

Monday's agreement calls for Japan to provide a satellite and scientific instruments, and the United States to provide equipment and launch the satellite in 1992, said a joint statement issued by Quayle and Kaifu.

Space in one area in which Japan still lags far behind the United States and Europe. In 1989, Japan will spend \$1.1 billion on its space programme, compared with \$9 billion spent by the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1988.

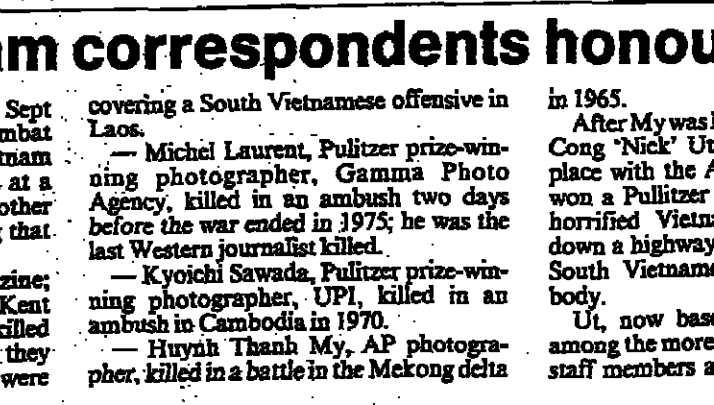
The Japanese government, however, has targeted the area for development.

In June, Japan announced plans to develop an unmanned space plane in the next decade and eventually send its own astronauts into space aboard Japanese-made spacecraft.

Japan's national Aerospace Laboratory already is developing a manned space platform with a working environment for the 12-nation "Freedom" space station programme initiated by the United States.

Quayle asked the Japanese to help ensure Poland's process of democratization continues and to help with the realization of open and free elections in Nicaragua in February.

Quayle also requested Japanese assistance in the war on drugs, saying that poverty in Latin American countries is a prime reason people sell drugs.



Quayle and his wife being greeted by Kaifu and his wife before an official welcoming ceremony. (Reuters wirephoto)

Foes to 'impeach' Seoul official

SEoul, South Korea, Sept 25, (AP): The largest opposition party threatened today to file an impeachment motion against prosecutor general Kim Ki-Choo, accusing him of misusing power to crack down on the political opposition.

Rep. Kim Won-Kee, floor leader of the Party for Peace and Democracy, said his party would introduce a motion to demand Kim's dismissal in the current National Assembly session, which lasts until mid-December.

"His power abuse can no longer be overlooked. Our party will make its utmost effort to carry his dismissal through the assembly," the PPD floor leader told reporters.

He was commenting on an announcement over the weekend that 21 lawmakers, including the heads of two main opposition parties, were being investigated on allegations including libel, embezzlement and security law violations.

The PPD, which controls 71 seats in the 299-member assembly, needs support from other opposition parties to pass the dismissal motion. Other parties also criticized the prosecution but stopped short of committing themselves to support the motion.

Prosecution officials said those lawmakers under investigation included nine from the government Democratic Justice Party and 12 from the PPD and two other main opposition parties.

The officials said no political motives were involved in the investigations. They said complaints or petitions had been filed against the lawmakers.

The government today approved cardinal Kim So-Hwan's plan to invite 26 North Korean Catholics to a conference in Seoul next week.

The officials said approval came at a meeting presided over by Minister Lee Hong-Koo of the Unification Board, a government agency handling inter-Korean affairs.

Pope John Paul II and delegates from 82 countries are to attend the International Eucharistic Congress Oct 4-8, officials said.

A Seoul district criminal court sentenced a newspaper executive today to a suspended 18-month prison term on charges of trying to send reporters to communist North Korea without government approval.

Lee Young-Hee, an editorial adviser to the dissident Hankyoreh Shinmun, was released immediately after judge Lee Tae-Woon handed down the suspected sentence.

Government prosecutors, who had sought a four-year sentence for Lee, said they would appeal the "excessively lenient" verdict.

Members of a group of 119 government troops who deserted to Thailand last week when their unit was cut off by the Khmer Rouge north of Pailin said they had had only a few months training and were afraid of their battle-hardened opponents.

It was not clear whether the intensity of fighting or the penetration by the guerrillas had changed in recent weeks.

The monsoon rains have waterlogged most parts of Cambodia, restricting movement, and Western diplomats in Bangkok predicted the guerrillas would delay any serious offensive until the dry season begins in November.

Cambodia braces up for onslaught

Vietnamese troops pull out

PHNOM PENH, Sept 25, (Agencies): Cambodians put their hopes in their ill-trained army and a change of heart in China and the West, as Vietnamese troops streamed out of the capital today leaving them to face the Khmer Rouge threat alone.

Prime Minister Hun Sen, surrounded by his Communist Party colleagues, waved goodbye to columns of Vietnamese soldiers from a dais in front of the royal palace in the most elaborate of six days of departure ceremonies across the country.

Officials said about 150,000 people crowded the green in front of the palace and lined Lenin Boulevard, the main street in a city which is still struggling back to its feet 10 years after the Vietnamese drove out the Khmer Rouge of Pol Pot.

The crowds waved Cambodian and Vietnamese flags handed out by the authorities but the exuberance of the occasion, a rare outbreak of colour in this austere capital, was tempered by anxiety.

"We must prevent the return of Pol Pot. Our country must never have anything like that again," said Srong Villy, a student of English. "If we can get support from capitalist countries and the West, Pol Pot can't come back," he added.

The hoped-for international recognition of Vietnam's troop withdrawal has not so far come, however, and Western countries and China have given no indication they will turn off the flow of arms and other support to the guerrillas.

Hun Sen expressed his people's hopes at a news conference yesterday: "All countries involved in the conflict have promised to stop arms supplies to warring Cambodian parties after the Vietnamese troops are gone."

"Now they must carry out their promise," he said.

The Cambodian Army, which Hun Sen says is strong enough to resist an expected offensive, was engaged in skirmishes against Khmer Rouge and non-communist resistance forces from their bases along the western border with Thailand.

Mortar and artillery exchanges were heard in the forested hills just south of the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet, an area of infiltration by Khmer Rouge troops.

Sources in the non-communist KPNLF group said their forces and government troops exchanged fire near the Cambodian town of Ampil, four km (2.5 miles) from Site 2, a camp on the Thai side that is home for 140,000 Cambodian refugees.

The Khmer Rouge claimed today that its fighters had captured "a major strategic position" on the road between the key towns of Battambang and Pailin in western Cambodia.

The clandestine Khmer Rouge radio, the Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, made the claim yesterday.

A transcript of the radio report was seen in Bangkok.

It said Khmer Rouge guerrillas on Friday seized the Ratanakomondol district seat at Sdau township on route 10, which links the town of Battambang with Pailin.

It is a "major strategic position" whose task is to defend Battambang town from the south," the radio said.

Battambang is some 250 kilometres (about 160 miles) northwest of the capital, Phnom Penh. Pailin is near the frontier with Thailand.

Both sides say fighting is also under way in the hills near Pailin, to the south, where Khmer Rouge forces are on the offensive to eliminate government positions in an area rich in rubymines and crossed by guerrilla infiltration routes.

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In the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet, the base for aid workers helping about 300,000 refugees along the frontier, the aid agencies issued a statement demanding that the refugees not be forced back en masse while the fighting continues.

France violated norms: China

BEIJING, Sept 25, (Agencies): China lodged a "strong protest" with the French government today for allowing pro-democracy Chinese dissidents to meet in Paris, saying France was guilty of a "brutal trample" of the principles of mutual respect.

"It is indeed a rare case in international relations that the government of a country brazenly supports activities on its territory by a handful of foreigners aimed at opposing and subverting the government of a foreign country," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The statement came after a meeting between a "responsible person" of the ministry and French ambassador to China Charles Malo in which China expressed its "profound indignation" and issued a "strong protest" to the French government.

China's sharp response came at the conclusion of the three-day inaugural meeting in Paris of the Federation of Democracy in China. "During the meeting, pro-democracy delegates from 15 countries elected dissident political scientist Yan Jiaqi and student activist Wu'er Kaixi as chairman and vice chairman of the new group."

The federation is to be based in Paris.

Yan, Wu'er and other leading participants in the organisation, including computer entrepreneur Wan Runnan and prominent economist Chen Yizi, fled China after the June 3-4 military crackdown on the democracy movement and are wanted by the Chinese government on charges of counter-revolutionary activities.

The statement added: "It is a serious move to cause deterioration of relations between China and France."

The French government, it said, should "rein in at the brink of the precipice and truly abide by the norms governing state-to-state relations."

If not, France "should assume full responsibility to the further damage therefrom on Sino-French relations."

Last week, Foreign Ministry spokesman Li Zhaoxing described Yan and others advocating democratic reform in China as "criminals" and, while not specifically mentioning France, said: "We firmly oppose to any country that has diplomatic relations with China to allow Yan Jiaqi and other criminals to engage themselves in anti-Chinese activities on their territories."

Relations between Paris and Beijing already have been badly strained by France's outspoken criticism of the June suppression of dissent. The French government in effect has frozen high-level diplomatic contacts and joined other western nations in urging China to respect the human rights of students and others calling for democratic reform.

Sanctions imposed by the West over Beijing suppression of pro-democracy protests will not slow China's modernisation but will hurt the countries imposing them, a government minister said.



Tiananmen Square opened

China today opened Tiananmen Square to carefully vetted civilians in the buildup to the 40th anniversary of the people's republic, as troops practised riot control nearby in a reminder of the tension in the city.

Several hundred civilians, in groups organised by schools and work units, were allowed to view elaborate decorations that seem calculated to counter memories of the pro-democracy protests crushed by the army with hundreds of deaths in June.

Officers put tape on the Avenue of Eternal Peace in front of Tiananmen Square Sept 25 to be used on National Day celebration participants to check that their positions are correct. More than 100,000 people are to take part in an organised rally in the square. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nuns sentenced

BEIJING, Sept 25, (Reuters): China has sentenced nine Buddhist nuns to labour camps for mounting a public stage and shouting "Tibetan independence" during a Lhasa festival earlier this month, an official report reaching Beijing today said.

The Tibet Daily said six had been sentenced to three years and three others to two years of "labour education," China's official term for forced prison labour.

The nuns, mostly from Qiang and Xiongs temples near Lhasa, leap onto the stage during a drama performance before an audience of thousands in the Norbulingka, the former summer palace of the exiled Dalai Lama, on Sept 2, the daily said.

"They frenziedly chanted 'Tibetan independence' and other reactionary slogans, openly carrying out criminal activities to split the motherland, and were arrested by police on duty at the scene," it said.

They flagrantly broke the martial-law decree of (China's ruling) state council ... they were swollen with reactionary arrogance," it said, adding that the nuns had been "publicly sentenced" on Sept 8.

Recent foreign visitors to Lhasa said the nuns' protest was one of three similar incidents that erupted during the traditional Tibetan Xuedun festival in the city in early September.

Monks were arrested after flying the banned "Snow Lion" flag of Tibetan independence at Drepung monastery on the edge of Lhasa and police broke up a brief demonstration by monks in the city centre Barkhor Square, they said.

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Chinese exiles unite

Vow to fight communist rule

PARIS, Sept 25, (AP): Chinese exiles yesterday chose a leading architect of China's failed political reforms and a charismatic student leader of the pro-democracy movement to guide the international opposition to Beijing's communist rule.

On the final day of a three-day inaugural meeting of the Federation of Democracy in China, delegates from 15 countries elected Yan Jiaqi and Wu'er Kaixi as chairman and vice-chairman of the group.

"I'm very familiar with political science, but I'm not that familiar with politics," said Yan, the former director of the Institute of Political Science, one of China's leading think tanks.

"Still, I think my firm belief in a fair and democratic political process will be an advantage in this fight," he said in an interview.

The soft-spoken 47-year-old scholar is on China's wanted list, accused of "counter-revolutionary crimes."

He worked closely with the Beijing students' pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square, crushed by troops.

Wu'er, 21, is one of the most charismatic and best-known of the 21 student leaders accused of "counter-revolutionary crimes." In a national TV newscast, he confronted hardline Premier Li Peng and fainted after his speech.

Wu'er and his girlfriend Liu Yan were smuggled out of China to Hong Kong, then taken by way of Paris to the United States in late June.

As a student at Beijing normal university, he was known for delivering compelling speeches on democracy. Now a student at Harvard University, his remains as ardent as ever.

"All of my views aren't always those of Yan Jiaqi, but I think that's good, it is democracy," he told

Killed Vietnam correspondents honoured in memorial service

JEFFERSONVILLE, New York, Sept 25, (AP): The roll call of six combat photographers who died in Vietnam evoked painful memories and tears at a memorial honouring them and 57 other journalists who were killed covering the war.

Larry Burrows, Life Magazine; Henri Huet, The Associated Press; Kent Potter, United Press International, killed in 1971 when the helicopter in which they were flying was shot down while they were covering a South Vietnamese offensive in Laos.

Michel Laurent, Pulitzer prize-winning photographer, Gamma Photo Agency, killed in an ambush two days before the war ended in 1975; he was the last Western journalist killed.

Kyoichi Sawada, Pulitzer prize-winning photographer, UPI, killed in an ambush in Cambodia in 1970.

Huynh Thanh My, AP photographer, killed in a battle in the Mekong delta in 1965.

After My was killed, his brother, Huynh Cong 'Nick' Ut, then only 17, took his place with the AP. Eight years later, Ut won a Pulitzer prize for his photo of a horrified Vietnam girl running naked down a highway after a napalm strike by South Vietnamese bombers seared her body.

Ut, now based in Los Angeles, was among the more than 200 photographers, staff members and guests at the second-annual Eddie Adams workshop who honoured the journalists yesterday in this year of the 150th anniversary of photography.

Ut was so choked with emotion that he was unable to speak and asked a colleague to read his remarks. "I saw my brother's name and I could not speak," Ut said afterward.

The ceremony was the idea of Adams, a Vietnam Pulitzer-prize winner himself. It was held on a hilltop in his workshop-farm in the Catskills around a slate table.

INTERNATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

Train derails

DUBLIN, Ireland, Sept 25, (AP): A train carrying pilgrims to the Knock shrine in rural Ireland struck a herd of cows and derailed yesterday injuring at least 50 people.

The chartered train was near Clarendon in county Mayo when it hit the cattle after they had wandered onto the track.

Two doctors on board the train tended the injured, who were taken to Castlebar hospital in a fleet of ambulances.

Clarendon is about five miles (8 kilometres) south of Knock, the most important Roman Catholic shrine in Ireland. In 1879, 15 people were said to have seen an apparition of the Virgin Mary at the Church of St John the Baptist. The shrine draws about 1 million visitors each year.

Atlas launched

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, Sept. 25, (Reuters): The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) launched its last Atlas Centaur rocket today, ending an era in US space history.

The launch was the first unmanned rocket from Cape Canaveral to be carried out by Nasa control.

The two-stage, 137-foot (45-metre) launch vehicle rocket blasted from the launch pad just before dawn, carrying a communications satellite to join five others in the fleet Satcom series of six satellites which link US Armed Forces anywhere in the world.

Quakes hit Greece

ATHENS, Greece, Sept 25, (AP): Two moderate earthquakes rolled through southern Greece today causing no damage or injuries, the geodynamic institute reported.

The institute said the first quake measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale struck at 9.35 am (0735 GMT) and the second, three minutes later, touched 4.5 on the same scale. Both tremors had their epicentre in the sea 30 kilometres (18 miles) west of Pylos in the Peloponnese.

Police said most of the residents in the area felt the earthquakes but displayed little or no apprehension.

Nato manoeuvres

ANKARA, Sept 25, (Kuna): Nato yesterday began military exercises in Turkey dubbed "the determination display 89".

The US is sending A-10 bomber to the exercises as they are meant to support the Turkish ground forces against mock Eastern bloc attacks, according to the official Turkish news agency.

Turkey will take part in the manoeuvres until the 3rd of October after which foreign units will leave Turkey on October 7.

Bavaria surgery

SYDNEY, Australia, Sept 25, (AP): Former Fiji Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra was recovering in a New Zealand hospital yesterday after surgery to remove a cancerous lesion on his spine, the Fiji independent news service reported.

Former south Australian state premier Don Dunstan, the chairman of the news service, said Bavadra underwent surgery last week.

He said Bavadra's condition was not life-threatening, and that the former prime minister was to return to Fiji next week.

Laos sentences

BANGKOK, Sept 25, (UPI): A court in Laos has sentenced 14 people to prison for conspiring to kill elephants, the official Laos news agency reported today.

The KPL news agency said the people's court of Attapeu province, 340 miles (545 km) south of the capital Vientiane, recently sentenced 14 people convicted of conspiring to kill elephants for their tusks.

KPL said the cases occurred in the area of Houai Hampe and Houai Koo streams last March and April.

"The sentences... range from two years imprisonment and a fine of 481,250 kip (\$350), one year imprisonment and a fine of 431,250 kip (\$318), to three months imprisonment and a fine of 183,335 kip (\$220)," it said.

Political aspirations

LILONGWE, Sept 25, (Reuters): The woman who acts as Malawi's official hostess at the side of life President Kamuzu Banda has denied foreign press reports that she might one day be a contender to succeed him.

"I myself have no political ambition whatsoever," Mama C. Tamanda Kadzandira told a news conference at the headquarters of the ruling Malawi Congress Party.

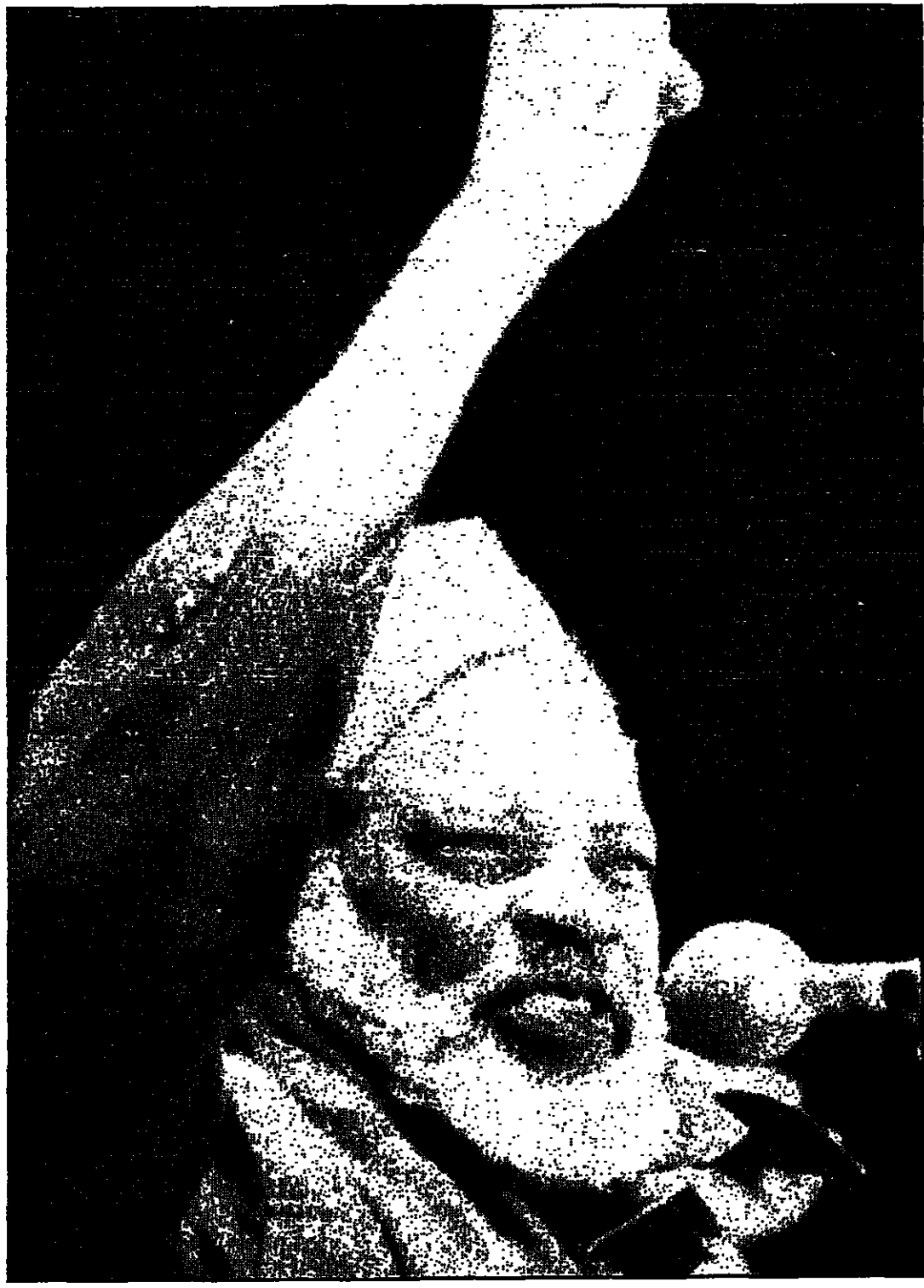
Kadzandira is one of the closest associates of Dr Banda who has never married. As well as being his official hostess, she plays a leading role in the Malawi Women's Organisation CCAM.

False passports

LONDON, Sept 25, (Reuters): A former Irish embassy official was jailed for 21 months today for supplying false passports in exchange for cash and sex.

Kevin McDonald, 35, who was chief passport officer at the Irish Embassy in London, admitted conspiring to obtain bogus passports which he sold to Iranians, Libyans and Moroccans for up to £15,000 (\$24,000) each.

Prosecution lawyer Julian Bevan said: "In return for thousands of pounds he supplied passports to virtually anyone on matter how bogus or sham their applications had been."



Swapo President Sam Nujoma salutes a crowd during the rally. (Reuters wirephoto)

Activists will march again

Blacks recount brutality

PRETORIA, Sept 25, (Reuters): Anti-apartheid activists vowed today to try to march again on the seat of South Africa's white-led government after being thwarted last Saturday by a huge police operation.

Dozens of activists made the pledge in St Alban's cathedral in central Pretoria where the weekend march had been due to begin before police intervened.

The activists recounted their version of Saturday's events, accusing police of beating up several people who tried to defy a ban on the protest by going to union buildings, the government headquarters overlooking Pretoria.

Police arrested more than 100 people who appeared briefly in court today.

Asked if they planned to march again, the activists chorused "yes" but were not clear when this might happen.

Some march organisers admit privately they were outmanoeuvred on Saturday by police who sealed off the starting point of the march with a double coil of barbed wire and set up road blocks to turn back demonstrators.

"We are still regrouping and assessing our mistakes," one organiser said today.

The South African government, under new President F W De Klerk, has allowed several protest marches to go ahead despite the fact that such mass dissent is technically illegal.

But last Saturday's march, which was organised mainly by women's groups, was barred on the grounds that the activists had not sought official permission.

Radio South Africa, in a commentary today, indicated that the government's relatively restrained attitude towards mass protest might change.

It questioned whether a spate of such marches was necessary and stressed that it was the government's duty to maintain law and order.

Police said today they were investigating a mixed-race coloured police officers, Lieutenant Gregory Rockman, who has started his superiors by alleging police brutality in suppressing



De Klerk allowed protests in townships near Cape Town this month.

Rockman, whose outspokenness has made him something of a hero among young activists, said he did not know about the enquiry.

He said he had written to De Klerk requesting a meeting to discuss alleged police brutality.

Meanwhile, a nation-wide consumer boycott of white-owned South African shops had a mixed response with some shops reporting a 90 per cent drop in sales while others say the effects are marginal.

The boycott was launched last Friday by the country's two major labour federations, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) as part of a two-month-old campaign against apartheid and white minority rule.

In addition to the consumer boycott which will run until Oct 6, the unions have launched an indefinite overtime ban to protest against year-old government legislation which limits the union's right to strike.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher plans launching a peace mission to South Africa early next year, probably at Easter, according to newspaper reports today.

Nujoma offers olive branch

WINDHOEK, Sept 25, (AP): Sam Nujoma, the nationalist leader who oversaw a guerrilla war against South African rule, drew a jubilant crowd of about 70,000 yesterday for his first speech since returning from 30 years of exile.

It was one of the largest political rallies ever in Namibia, which is scheduled to obtain independence early next year.

The crowd, predominantly black, packed a sports stadium to hear the president of the South-West Africa People's Organisation.

Nujoma said pre-independence elections in November were "a historic opportunity for our people to choose a government of the people, by the people, for the people."

He pledged his leftist movement would not exclude those with differing views if it gained control of a post-independence government.

"Swapo has no intention of imposing a one-party political system on the Namibian people against their will," he said.

"Swapo does not intend to rule Namibia alone, but will seek the participation of others in formulating and implementing policy."

The speech, translated from English into Afrikaans and three tribal languages, took more than two hours to complete.

"Viva plan," shouted Nujoma upon reaching the podium, saluting the People's Liberation Army of Namibia — the guerrilla wing of Swapo that began a sporadic and largely unsuccessful bush war against South African rule in 1966.

Nujoma alleged the election campaign was being marred by intimidation of Swapo supporters. He mentioned the recent unprovoked assassination of Anton Lubowski, a white Swapo official.

He said regional stability in southern Africa would come only when South Africa dismantled its policy of racial segregation and white domination known as apartheid, but he commended recent pledges by new South African President F.W. de Klerk to seek racial reconciliation.

Kremlin warns over Azeri-Armenia dispute

Gorbachev opens Supreme Soviet

MOSCOW, Sept 25, (AP): President Mikhail Gorbachev told lawmakers today that the Kremlin will take firm steps to settle the dispute over an Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan if local officials don't solve it quickly.

Gorbachev made the comments at the opening of the fall session of the Supreme Soviet. The 542-member body, transformed by elections this year from a rubber-stamp body to lively forum for debate, also must adopt a budget that slices in half the government's reported 120-

"If the situation doesn't stabilise, I think our government, along with the republics, will have to take concrete steps," Gorbachev said.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have been locked in 19-month feud over control of the predominantly Christian Armenian enclave located within mostly Muslim Azerbaijan. About 100 people have died in the conflict.

Moscow already has taken over direct rule of Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan, but officials say the situation remains extremely volatile.

An economic blockade of Armenia, which receives more than 80 per cent of its food and fuel via Azerbaijan, has left shelves bare and industry at a virtual standstill.

During a meeting of the Communist Party central committee last week, Gorbachev expressed frustration over lack of progress in settling the dispute. He said Moscow could not permit anarchy or bloodletting.

The legislature's televised summer session was remarkable for its candour and often severe criticism of Soviet policies and leaders, and Gorbachev today urged lawmakers to get to work immediately on the budget rather than wrangling over less important questions.

"We don't need debate here just to stir up the air," he said.

But the atmosphere Gorbachev was trying to create was punctuated by proposals to add to or change the session's agenda, threatening the same disorganisation that characterised much of the summer session.

And Gorbachev, himself, had to laugh when the new electronic voting system didn't work during its inaugural tryout.

The system, includes a square button on every deputy's desk and two electronic boards that are supposed to display the votes for, against, and abstaining from any particular vote, in addition to the total number voting.

When Gorbachev asked for a vote of those in favour of adopting an agenda for the session, the electronic board read "3 A" for a total. Laughing, Gorbachev told the deputies it was time to "go back to the old weapons," and they raised their legislative identification cards for count.

The four-month-old Supreme Soviet has some 30 proposals on its agenda, ranging from granting grant economic sovereignty to some of the country's 15 republics to guarantees of free press, religion and movement.

The legislative session is expected to last about two months. It is the second since multi-candidate elections last March bounced much of the old guard and selected members for the new Congress of People's Deputies, the Parliament which in turn chose new members of the Supreme Soviet from its own ranks.

At this session, independent-minded deputies are expected to offer their own bills to compete with those proposed by the Kremlin.

Reformist parliamentarians have decided to call for private property, market-driven pricing and independent television at the Supreme Soviet session.

The platform of the inter-regional deputies' group also calls for the freedom to publish, to strike, and to move within and across national borders. One proposed bill would guarantee the right to form organisations, theoretically giving people legal protection to form non-communist political parties.

The group includes 345 deputies of the Congress of People's Deputies Parliament. Some of the members also are deputies of the Supreme Soviet.

The Soviet Union is expected to join Interpol by around the end of next year, a senior official of the international police body said today.

billion-rouble (\$192-billion) deficit.

Government officials later today presented lawmakers an economic plan for 1990 and were expected to give details of the national budget.

Gorbachev did not say what measures he had in mind for the dispute over the autonomous region of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan, and deputies interviewed during a break said they did not know. However, in replying to legislators' questions, Gorbachev indicated he wanted action within days.

Lithuania rises

Annexation: illegal

MOSCOW, Sept 25, (AP): The Lithuanian parliament approved a report that says the 1940 Soviet annexation of the Baltic republic occurred against the will of the people, an activist said yesterday.

Activists have said they intend to use the report as the basis for an eventual referendum on secession from the Soviet Union, on the grounds that the annexation was illegal.

The parliament voted Saturday on the document that has angered Kremlin authorities, said Ramone Sakaluskaitis of the Lithuanian People's Front, Sajudis.

The report was prepared by a local commission set up to study the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, under which the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany divided Poland and the Baltic states between themselves.

The parliamentary commission said in August that "the realisation of the illegal German-Soviet agreements of 1939 to 1941 constitute an international crime."

In addition, the report says that the Lithuanian law approving the Soviet annexation in 1940 was beyond the power of the parliament of that time and occurred "absolutely against the will of the citizens of Lithuania."



The Duke of Edinburgh (left), talks with flautist band Sgt David Duxbury-Williams during his visit. (Reuters wirephoto)

IRA bombing condemned

Maggie visits Deal

LONDON, Sept 25, (UPI): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher condemned today the "absolute monsters" who bombed the Royal Marines barracks where 10 military handmen died in an explosion claimed by the outlawed Irish Republican Army.

The prime minister arrived by helicopter shortly after 9 am in the seaside town of Deal, 75 miles (120 km) southeast of London near Dover. As she walked through the wreckage, forensic teams continued to collect the rubble for their investigation of Friday's bombing that also wounded 12 marines.

British police have flown to Island of Corsica to interview a retired businessman who may have information about the suspected IRA hit squad. Dennis Johnson was believed to have met the three men, believed to be Irish, who rented his house overlooking the marines' parade ground.

As Thatcher finished her visit to the barracks members of the Royal Marines band could be heard playing on their parade ground.

The prime minister then visited the 10 bandmen who are still hospitalised and said they were in "very good heart," but added that no effort will be spared to track to the bombers.

"We lost 10 remarkable musicians, not fighting men, we lost 10 just because some people tried to bomb others out of their democratic views," Thatcher

said. "The bombers don't like what people choose to do when they have the vote and they try to bomb them out. They'll never succeed."

Friday's attack, the deadliest bombing of a military target since 1974, was claimed by the IRA, which is fighting to oust British rule in Northern Ireland and unite the province with the Irish Republic.

Thatcher was asked if she'd be reviewing the use of private security firms to guard military barracks like Deal and at more than 40 other military bases and installations in Britain.

"Everything will be reviewed, of course it will," she said. "But don't let that deflect you from whose fault it was. It was the fault of the monsters who did common murder."

The Ministry of Defence has said that before the attack security at the Royal Marines School of Music barracks was due to be strengthened following another IRA attack in August on an Army depot in London.

Defence Secretary Tom King, speaking in Portsmouth, about 100 miles (160 km) south of London, said today he may set up a controlling body to oversee the work of private security firms at military bases.

"We need the maximum number of people alert, their eyes open, their ears open, observing and guarding," he said. "And private security firms play a very useful role in that."

11 fleeing East Germans drowned

BONN, Sept 25, (Agencies): Two weeks after Hungary allowed East Germans to migrate West, more than 20,000 refugees had arrived in West Germany today in the largest exodus since Soviet-backed East German troops built the Berlin Wall, 28 years ago, officials said.

Border guards said the migration continued at the rate of several hundred refugees every day. They said more than 450 had arrived in the southern German state of Bavaria since last night, travelling by bus and train from Hungary, through Austria.

The latest arrivals brought to more than 20,000 the total number of East Germans who arrived in West Germany since Hungary suspended a no-migration agreement with East Germany and opened its western borders to the refugees.

When the migration started several West German officials said they expected a maximum of 20,000 would come to West Germany. But there was no indication today how many more would join the exodus, the largest since thousands fled East Germany in the days before the Aug 13, 1961 construction of the Berlin Wall.

Several hundred East Germans reportedly fled to Hungary from Czechoslovakia to join the migration in the past two weeks, including 265 who swam across the Danube River to escape Czechoslovak border patrols.

A West German relief official said today on his return from Hungary, that 11 people apparently died when crossing the river.

"It is relatively certain they drowned," said Wolfgang Wagner, who led the Maltese Cross team in the Hungarian capital of Budapest.

The East German government today ordered a political reform group called New Forum to halt its activities immediately, group members said.

Some 4,200 people have signed an appeal for dialogue and change since the group was set up two weeks ago as the largest independent organisation in East Germany's 40-year history.

Reformist Politburo member Imre Pozsgay said yesterday the ruling Communist Party's goal is to shake off Stalinism in favour of Western European-style socialism, the news agency MTI reported.

East German activists met unexpectedly yesterday and resolved to turn the fledgling new forum opposition movement into an umbrella organisation for reformist groups, organisers of the meeting said.

They told Reuters about 80 people from groups opposed to the government's hardline policies and refusal to consider reforms attended the gathering in Leipzig, originally planned for early October.

Honecker appears after long illness

EAST BERLIN, Sept 25, (Reuters): East German leader Erich Honecker reemerged today after a long absence through illness to receive credentials from two new ambassadors, the official East German news agency ADN reported.

The 77-year-old Communist Party chief and head of state has been seen in public just once since early July and had an operation for gallstones on August 18.

Shevardnadze assures, Moscow will not use force to quell ethnic unrest

WASHINGTON, Sept 25, (Agencies): US Secretary of State James Baker, interviewed yesterday on US television, said his Soviet counterpart has assured him Moscow would not use force to quell unrest in the Baltic republics.

Baker said he and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze discussed the drive for independence in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania while the two were en route to their rocky mountain summit, and Shevardnadze "specifically rejected" the use of force to resolve the issue.

Baker interviewed on the US television network CBS' "Face the Nation" programme, added that the United States has for some time refused to recognise the Soviet annexation of the Baltic states, and continued to advocate more autonomy for the area.

"But it should not take place in the context of major instability, major bloodshed, and so forth," he said. "We hope that whatever happens with respect to the desire of the part of people in the Baltic states for more autonomy... happens peacefully."

The Soviet central committee, at a recent meeting devoted to ethnic unrest, passed a policy statement calling for the 15 Soviet republics to take on more economic and political autonomy, including ownership of all natural resources. But the party policy-making body drew a line at calls for independence.

US President George Bush is setting next year's superpower summit meeting as the target for completion of a treaty to slash long-range nuclear arsenals by 50 to 50 per

cent, senior US officials said. To lay the groundwork, and also hasten an accord on troops and tanks in Europe, Baker probably will meet Shevardnadze twice before the summit, an official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The same source said the Bush administration would work with the Soviets in an attempt to complete the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Start) by the summit meeting.

Baker would go to the Soviet Union sometime between November and January, and Shevardnadze would come to the United States afterward, a senior US official said last night.

Shevardnadze and Baker, who just finished two days of productive talks in the western resort town of Jackson

Hole, Wyoming, are known to be considering locations other than Moscow for the next meeting.

Baker, on the NBC television network "Today" programme this morning, declined to predict whether the treaty would be finished by the time of the summit meeting, which he said probably would be in late spring.

A Soviet decision not to let a dispute over space-based missile defences, commonly known as "star wars", stand in the way is expected to improve chances of completing a strategic weapons treaty.

Shevardnadze waded into the snake river fishing for trout yesterday, but he'll have to tell his Kremlin buddies about the one that got away.



Baker (left) and Shevardnadze wave as they return from a fishing trip. (Reuters wirephoto)

سكرا من يوتي

MIDEAST

Design to resurrect library

ALEXANDRIA, Sept 25, (Reuters): A Norwegian firm won a competition today for its design to resurrect an ancient library which once made Alexandria a centre of learning.

John Warnake, one of the nine judges, said the architectural firm Snohetta would receive \$60,000.

It was among more than 1,000 participants from 77 countries who took part in the competition, sponsored by the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

Warnake said work on the library, to be built with United Nations help in a \$180-million project, was expected to start at the beginning of next year and to be completed by 1995.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Mubarak's tour

CAIRO, Sept 25, (Reuters): President Hosni Mubarak embarked on a foreign tour today to promote Egypt's campaign for direct peace talks between Palestinians and Israelis to resolve their 41-year-old conflict.

Mubarak, who has received personal backing from PLO chairman Yasser Arafat for his proposals, went to attend a summit meeting of the four-nation Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) in North Yemen before going to France and the United States.

Attacker hailed

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Sept 25, (Reuters): Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have glorified in song a local resident who forced an Israeli bus into a ravine last July killing 16 Jews.

To the tune of a popular wedding song, it praises "the saviour" Abdel Hadi Sukman Ghannem, 25, who wrenched the wheel of a Tel Aviv-Jerusalem bus forcing it to plunge over a cliff, the Jerusalem Post reported today.

"When he called out the name of God, repeating Allahu Akbar (God is great), he declared a Jihad (holy war)," the song says.

Highway closed

ISLAMABAD, Sept 25, (AP): US-backed rebels said today they closed a critical supply link between Kabul and Afghanistan's battered eastern city of Jalalabad.

Masoud Khalili, a spokesman of the Islamist-Islami group, said about 1,000 fighters overran four communist government posts yesterday along the 75-mile (125-kilometre) road near Sarobi, 30 miles (50 kilometres) east of Kabul.

Indian minister

NICOSIA, Sept 25, (AP): Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani favours the expansion of relations with India, which can participate in Iran's extensive post-war reconstruction plans, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported today.

The agency said Rafsanjani's remarks were made during a meeting in Tehran with visiting Indian first Deputy Foreign Minister S.K. Singh.

Singh conveyed greetings to Rafsanjani from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and expressed the hope that relations between the two non-aligned states would expand considerably, added the agency.

Royal visit ends

AMMAN, Sept 25, (Reuters): Sweden's King Carl Gustav and his wife Queen Silvia left for Stockholm today at the end of their first state visit to Jordan, an embassy official said.

Menem to visit

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 25, (Kuna): Argentina's new President Carlos Menem, who is of Syrian origin, plans to visit the Middle East to help find a solution to the area's conflict, his spokesman, Humberto Toledo told Kuna yesterday.

Toledo said Menem will discuss his initiative with US President George Bush prior to leaving on his trip to three countries — Syria, Egypt and Jordan.

Iraq linked BNL's files destroyed

ROME, Sept 25, (Reuters): Arsonists burned documents and files at a Rome branch of Italy's largest bank, Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, today, police said.

A police spokesman said unknown attackers smashed windows, poured in an inflammable liquid and set it alight.

An unknown group protesting against apartheid in South Africa said it set fire to the bank.

The bank is at the centre of a scandal over unauthorised lending to Iraq but no one has claimed responsibility for the attack and it was not immediately clear whether there was any connection.

The bank's president and director-general were forced to resign earlier this month in a row over \$3 billion lent to Iraq by the bank's Atlanta, Georgia, branch.

Lebanon assembly to meet in Jeddah

AL envoy escapes shelling

BEIRUT, Sept 25, (Agencies): The Arab League's Lebanon peace envoy negotiator narrowly escaped shelling which hit his hotel in a village near Beirut today in the first serious breach of the fragile two-day ceasefire.

But the brief shelling barrage in hills to the east of Beirut failed to deter the thousands of citizens streaming back to the war-ravaged capital in holiday mood.

Arab League peace negotiator Lakhdar Brahimi was woken by the shell blasts which shook his hotel room in the village of Beit Meri and immediately contacted officials to stop the firing, security sources reported.

Lebanon's Parliament will meet on Saturday in Saudi Arabia to begin discussing political reforms aimed at ending the 14-year-old civil war, Al Ibrahim announced.

Ibrahim announced after a one-hour meeting with Shiite Muslim Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini that the surviving 73 members of the 99-seat legislature would meet on Saturday in Saudi Arabia.

He said he would contact the Saudi government to make arrangements for the session and decide which city in the kingdom would host the gathering.

Husseini was scheduled to preside over a meeting of a security committee made up of officials of several Lebanese factions later today to assess efforts to consolidate the truce.

Husseini met with members of Lebanon's Parliament today to decide on the venue of a meeting to be held under the peace plan to consider political reforms.

The peace plan invited the 73 surviving members of the 99-seat Parliament to meet outside Lebanon on Sept 30 to work out political reforms.

No venue has yet been set. But there was speculation the meeting will be held in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah.

Police said at least 1 million refugees who fled the ferocious artillery battles that began on March 8 have returned to Beirut since Aoun announced acceptance of the peace plan late Friday.

"They started coming back minutes after the general said yes to the peace plan," the police spokesman said. "They didn't even wait for daylight."

Beirut took the brunt of the savage shelling by both sides, forcing all but 150,000 of the capital's 1.5 million population to flee to safer areas.

Witnesses said one shell smashed through the wall of the Al Roustan Hotel where he was staying, breaking windows and spraying shrapnel into the walls.

More than 50 shells tore into nearby houses and streets, causing damage but no casualties.

Christian military sources said 120 shells and mortar bombs hit the mountain villages of Beit Meri, Mansouriyeh and Ain Sadeh. Muslim security sources confirmed Beit Meri was shelled briefly.

The Christian military sources blamed the shelling on gunners in the upper Metn area held by

Iran raps Syria

MANAMA, Sept 25, (UPI): A Tehran newspaper today attacked what it described as Syria's occupation of Lebanese territory, indicating a possible rift between Iran and its only Arab ally.

"The Syrians should admit that there is a difference between fighting Zionism and imperialism and occupying a neighbouring country," Iran's official Iran news agency quoted the Tehran Times newspaper as saying.

The newspaper, closely linked to pragmatist Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, called on Damascus to "make sincere efforts to bring back peace to Lebanon, and to establish political justice there."

The Iranian newspaper's attack on Syria, which offered Tehran political support during the eight-year-long Iran-Iraq war in exchange for oil, came as an Arab League initiative to end 14 years of civil strife in Lebanon appeared to be having some success.

Rivalry between Iran's Gulf war foe Iraq and Syria also made Damascus a natural ally for Tehran.

Regional analysts said radical Iranian politicians linked to fundamentalist Hezbollah or party of God groups in Lebanon have fallen out of favour with the new Iranian leadership, which sees Iran's economic well-being linked to improved ties with the Arab and Islamic world, even at the cost of antagonising Syria.

An Arab League attempt this summer to mediate between Lebanon's Iraq-backed Christian strongman Gen. Michel Aoun and Syrian-backed Muslim militias ended in failure after Damascus refused to co-operate.

The Arab League's second mediation effort, announced in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia earlier this month, failed to mentioned the key issue of 35,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon. But Saudi government officials told United Press International in Jeddah that the tripartite committee made up of the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria had earlier received private assurances from both Syria and Iraq that they would abide by the peace call.

Syrian troops and their Lebanese militia allies. An official of the Syrian-backed Druze Progressive Socialist Party militia stationed there said Christian gunners were responsible.

But the distant clump of exploding shells failed to spoil the mood in the rest of the country. Planes still flew into Beirut airport which reopened yesterday after a six-month closure.

The seaside highway into Christian East Beirut was jammed with cars and buses with tents and bedding piled high on their roofs. They brought back refugees from relative safety of remote Christian villages.

Refugee camp on the banks of the Awali river near the port of Sidon in mainly-Muslim south Lebanon was virtually deserted by early today.

Beirut international airport had passenger flights from Kuwait, Rome, Paris and Cyprus scheduled to arrive today.

Middle East Airlines, the national flag-carrier expecting a flood of Lebanese returning from sanctuary abroad, appealed to passengers to make bookings well in advance.

At least two ships arrived overnight at the Christian-held ports of Beirut and Jounieh, which reopened yesterday. Syria had blocked the ports since March to block arms and other supplies to Aoun.



King Hassan in Spain
King Hassan of Morocco waves from the steps of his plane as he arrives in Spain on a private visit. (Reuters wirephoto)

Army lead fight against Kurds

ANKARA, Sept 25, (Reuters): Turkey's Army is taking full charge of the battle against Kurdish rebels in southeastern Turkey to curb an upsurge in violence, sources close to the military said today.

Some senior field officers of the para-military gendarmerie, which has borne the brunt of fighting against the rebels since mid-1984, have been replaced by Army men, they said.

The wide-ranging powers of the regional civilian governorship were being reduced, they added.

Recent visitors to the south-east said border security had been stepped up, more troops were visible and a new Army field hospital had been set up near Iskenderun.

The new tough policy follows a belief that a civilian-led hearts-and-minds campaign in Kurdish speaking areas near the Iranian, Iraqi and Syrian borders has not been fully effective.

"The situation is heading for insurgency. Previously it was terrorism. The rebels appear to

be gaining increased support from the local population," one foreign military source said.

The sources said the new policy was being implemented with no signs of major rifts between Army and government, which is against any return of martial law, scrapped in the area in 1987.

Nearly 2,000 people have been killed in the five years since the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) launched a campaign for independence for Turkey's estimated eight million Kurds.

A monthly average of about 70 people, including soldiers, have been killed since early May, up from an average of 30.

The PKK, with new bases in Iran, has also widened its area of operations to eastern Turkey.

"The terrorists, to reach their long- and short-term aims, have preferred to use arms. We... must also use arms against arms as a matter of priority," General Necip Torumtay, Turkey's top soldier, said in a rare statement last month.

No thanks

AMMAN, Sept 25, (Reuters): Jordan has rejected an Australian gift of 10,000 sheep previously barred by Abu Dhabi, an official said today.

The Australians offered to give the sheep as a gift after Abu Dhabi denied their entry because they suffered from blue tongue and sheep pox. Assad Abu Al Ragheb, head of the Agriculture Ministry's animal health department told Reuters.

"But we refused the offer and turned the ship away after it docked at Aqaba," he said.



Scores of Muslim and Christian children clap and sing for peace in Lebanon during a festival held by Unicef in Lebanon's eastern Bekka valley. (Reuters wirephoto)

Iran may forcibly regain lost land

NICOSIA, Sept 25, (AP): An Iranian leader warned today that Iran may resort to force if Iraq does not withdraw from territory captured in the eight-year Gulf war, the third such threat in a week.

Tehran Radio, quoted radical Parliament Speaker Mehdi Karubi as saying that if deadlocked peace negotiations "do not lead to a settlement, we will get back our occupied territory with blood and martyrdom."

He echoed similar warnings by Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hashemi Rafsanjani last week.

The Iranians claim the Iraqis occupy 2,663 square kilometres (1,020 square miles) of border land seized during the final phase of the war before a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire took effect Aug 20 last year.

UN truce observers estimate that the Iraqis hold around 1,000 square kilometres (386 square miles).

Iraq insists there can be progress in deadlocked peace talks until the Iraqis withdraw their forces from the occupied areas.

Iraq refuses to pull out until Iran agrees to dredging the disputed Shatt-Al-Arab waterway, the southern boundary between the two countries and Iraq's main outlet to the Gulf.

The only part of UN Security Council's 1987 ceasefire resolution, which stipulates a withdrawal to pre-war borders and an exchange of prisoners, that has implemented so far is the truce itself.

Karubi's comments underlined a new tough stand by Tehran against making any concessions to revive the stalemate peace talks until Iraq withdraws.

Khamenei declared on the eve of the Sept 22 anniversary of Iraq's 1980 invasion of Iran that "Iran will not tolerate the incursion and presence of the wicked occupier within its borders for long."

"Sooner or later they will be forced to relinquish this territory," Khamenei stressed.

The following day, Iran's President Hashemi Rafsanjani, believed to have been instrumental in persuading the late Ayatollah Khamenei to accept the ceasefire, warned that Iran will make Iraq "retreat by force."

Israel blocks debate

Bid to ease crisis on Egyptian plan

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Sept 25, (Agencies): Israel's divided government, in an effort to ease a political crisis, united today to prevent a parliamentary debate on Egyptian proposals for peace talks with Palestinians.

"There is no desire by any party to exacerbate the differences right now," said Avi Pazner, spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"I think there is a common hope to keep this government together," he told Reuters.

Acting on a government appeal, parliament voted to dismiss motions by opposition parties to debate the Egyptian proposals, which have widened a rift between Shamir's rightist Likud Party and its Labour Party coalition partner.

The proposals, building on an Israeli plan for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, envisage Israelis negotiating in Cairo with representatives for Palestinians waging the 21-month-old uprising in the territories.

For the government, Likud Environment Minister Ronni Milo said there was no point in debating the proposals until the cabinet sought a compromise early next month when key ministers returned from abroad.

Yossi Sarid, of the leftist opposition citizens rights movement, ridiculed Shamir's refusal to meet Palestinians approved by the PLO.

"What Palestinian are you looking for?" he asked. "One that is not PLO? One who will oppose the uprising, who is not from Jerusalem... who will go blindly?"

But right-wing legislator Gula Cohen of the Tcheiya Party told Shamir to stand firm against Labour pressure to accept Egyptian President Mubarak's proposals for talks between Israeli and Palestinian delegations on elections.

"I am glad that Shamir has seen what a trap that is," she told parliament.

Underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising published a leaflet today urging activists to pursue their rebellion against Israeli rule and denouncing Egyptian peace proposals.

The latest leaflet, the 46th issued since the uprising began on Dec 8, 1987, called for "the continuation of our intifada (uprising) with lots of awareness and alertness."

The leaflet criticised Mubarak for proposing a new peace initiative earlier this month "at the same time as the enemy was increasing oppression of our people."

"There is no chance we can accept the 10 Egyptian points unless they include the obviousness and necessity for PLO participation in the political process on an equal footing with other parties," the leaflet added.

It also criticised the Egyptian plan for failing to specify the PLO goal that negotiations lead to forming a Palestinian state in

the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian militants killed an alleged Arab collaborator and seriously injured another in a Gaza Strip refugee camp today.

It was the sixth such death in four days and the fourth in Gaza's Rafah refugee camp recently.

Masked men stabbed 35-year-old Zayed Abu Muhsin to death at a United Nations clinic where he worked in Rafah camp. United Nations relief workers said.

Said Abu Shawish, 55, an employee at nearby Khan Yunis municipality, was stabbed in a separate incident, hospital officials said. He had been attacked before.

ACC to form common market

SANAA, Sept 25, (Reuters): The leaders of half the Arab world's people assembled in the North Yemen capital Sanaa today to lay the basis for an economic bloc to serve a population of 80 million.

North Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh escorted the leaders of Egypt, Iraq and Jordan in turn in motorcades through cheering crowds lining the streets of Sanaa.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who later this week will leave for France and the United States, was the first to arrive, followed by Iraq's Saddam Hussein and King Hussein of Jordan.

The four leaders founded the Arab Co-operation Council in Baghdad in February and met again in Alexandria in June.

This summit is intended to establish a practical framework leading ultimately to a common market

on the pattern of the European Economic Community.

Accords ready for the leaders' signatures cover such topics as trade, the war against drugs trafficking, agriculture, education and migrant workers.

The three visiting heads of state will also join North Yemen's celebrations on Tuesday of the 1962 revolution.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is also expected for the anniversary although his travel plans have, as usual, not been made public.

ACC leaders will also use the opportunity to discuss major Middle East issues, including divided Lebanon, Iraq's 1980-88 conflict with Iran, which ended in a ceasefire but no durable peace accord, and the Palestinian-Israeli peace moves which Mubarak is attempting to foster.

Algiers fights to revive its crumbling Casbah as a living neighbourhood

Today's Casbah reveals scenes of devastation reminiscent of a war zone. Boys kick a football around vacant lots where houses have collapsed. Red Crosses painted on carved wooden doorways mark dozens of dwellings declared unfit to live in.

Of the neighbourhood's 1,700 houses, most from the 18th century, 493 have been evacuated. A precious part of Algeria's Turkish heritage is in danger of extinction.

"The main cause of the degradation is human intervention," said Saray.

"Houses built for one or two families now contain up to eight."

Saray works from an office in the citadel on the top of the Casbah where the last dey of Algiers, Hussein, slapped the French consul with a fly swatter, precipitating the

French invasion of 1830.

Last February the Algerian government declared the Casbah an historic landmark, a move which Saray and other officials hope will speed up a restoration project begun in 1985 that has fallen far short of the pace of deterioration.

Last year alone 30 houses were evacuated. Since 1985 only 23 houses have been renovated, said Hadj Taibi, director of the office of intervention, regulation and development of the Casbah.

The disintegration of the Casbah began under the French when colonial authorities, to enhance control over a densely populated Arab stronghold, slashed through stone and brick edifices to build modern streets.

KUWAIT/GULF

Kuwait, France talks of special importance

Amir's visit will strengthen relations

PARIS, Sept 25, (Kuna): The French press today highlighted the visit of HH the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah to France, underlining the importance of the talks to be held with President Francois Mitterrand.

The mass circulation daily, *Le Figaro*, said that in his first official visit to Western Europe, the Amir of Kuwait chose to come to France although he has invitations from other states in the continent.

Quoting a senior Kuwaiti official, *Le Figaro* said the choice to visit France was the result of a "personal relationship" between His Highness and President Mitterrand which grew

since 1986.

In the past few years, France had a major role to play in the Gulf region, and the two countries had so much in common in fighting terrorism and searching for a settlement to the Gulf conflict.

Investments

Le Figaro said Kuwait did not forget the French efforts for mine-searching in the Gulf and the support it extended to Iraq during the hard years of the war.

It noted that the recent visit by Interior Minister, Pierre Joxe to Kuwait brought about two agreements on combatting terrorism and drug trafficking.

On the commercial side, the paper said the Kuwaiti business community consider the French side as lacking dynamism in competing with other Western industrial powers.

But it said that Kuwait realizes the importance of France during the preparations for the open European market of 1992.

In a second article on Kuwait, the *"Le Quotidien de Paris"*, highlighted the intellectual growth of the Kuwaiti people, saying early independence has made it distinctive in the region.

The paper also noted that at the years of oil boom, Kuwait increased its foreign investments to reap fruit at a time of recession in the world oil

market.

It said that the first grand steps for Kuwaiti investments in France came during the privatization period brought by the right wing government of Jacques Chirac in 1986.

Solutions

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ambassador to France, Tariq Razouqi, yesterday said that the upcoming visit to Paris by HH the Amir will definitely strengthen the existing relations between the two countries.

"This visit reflects the well-established Kuwaiti-French ties evident since its start in 1964," the ambassador told Kuna in an interview on the eve of the

start of the Amir's visit.

The three-day visit, the second in a year, comes in response to an invitation by President Mitterrand. The first visit took place last year when Sheikh Jaber stopped over in Paris while en route to the United Nations.

According to Ambassador Razouqi, the meeting between the two leaders has a special importance because President Mitterrand is the current chairman of the European Common Market and Sheikh Jaber is the current chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

It also comes in a "difficult regional and international circumstances," contended Razouqi, stressing that

both countries agree on the need to find proper solutions for them specially the Iran-Iraq war.

Speaking on France's stances on Middle Eastern issues, the Kuwaiti diplomat expressed satisfaction over President Mitterrand's decision to raise the Palestinian diplomatic representation to an embassy level and said, "this could be the gate for solving the question with assured rights of the Palestinian people."

He also said that France and Kuwait played major roles in bringing an end to the Lebanese crisis, which he described as a tragic waste of Arab blood.

"Kuwait and France, in addition to their political roles, played human-

itarian roles in lessening the pain of the Lebanese people by providing material help," the Kuwaiti envoy stressed.

On the preparations of the visit, Razouqi said that the French government has prepared the programme which consists of official talks on the first day and a dinner banquet hosted by President Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace.

He added that the Amir will host a reception in honour of President Mitterrand at the residence of the Kuwaiti ambassador on the second day and will also receive the Kuwaiti community in France at a dinner banquet at the embassy.



HH the Amir in Baghdad

HH the Amir yesterday ended an official visit to Baghdad to begin another state visit to France. Pictures above show (left) HH the Amir with President Saddam Hussein upon his arrival Saturday and (right) at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during his tour of Baghdad. Picture (below left) shows HH the Amir receiving the Rafidian Medal from President Saddam Hussein and (right) visiting the Iraqi Antiquities Museum.



Oman warns coral thieves

Reef strippers face prosecution

MUSCAT, Sept 25, (AP): Coral thieves who have been stripping reefs along Oman's 1,062-mile (1,700-kilometre) coastline face state prosecution if they are caught, fisheries department officials warned today.

Conservation sources said the move followed widespread concern among environmentalists at an increase in coral poaching and the growing threat that poses for the ecological balance in a region where new species are continually being discovered.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said rare living corals were increasingly being taken from the warm Omani waters off the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula.

The official press published an announcement today warning that it was illegal "to catch, collect or export any type of corals or molluscs in Omani waters for personal, commercial or scientific uses without a licence."

One conservationist noted: "There's quite a trade in coral in Oman these days and there are known to have been many instances of very rare shells being taken, leaving a diminishing number."

Omani legislation protecting living aquatic resources came into effect in 1981 under a royal decree by the country's ruler, Sultan Qaboos.

Reason

The conservation sources pointed out the law does not apply to the many species of dead shells found scattered along Oman's largely unexplored coastline of palm-fringed beaches and tiny coves.

A leading US conchologist based in Muscat, Dr Don Bosch, co-author of "Seashells of Southern Arabia" which was published in February, points out in the book that shell collectors should make themselves aware of legal restrictions of the collection of living biological specimens.

"Regulations are not intended to impede scientific research but rather to prevent indiscriminate collecting. Clearly such laws are there for reason and must be obeyed," Bosch wrote.

Public Medical Council Thorough check on reports

THE chairman of the Public Medical Council (PMC) Dr Mohammad Abdul Mohsen Khaleel has said that the PMC processes the medical documents of nearly ten thousand people nominated for public positions each year.

He told a local daily that the PMC also defined the age of more than 2,500 people referred to it by various government agencies, and looked into medical reports submitted by patients under treatment, whether in Kuwait or outside, to approve or disapprove or recommend sick leave or treatment abroad.

He pointed out that the PMC offered its medical services to nearly 65 government ministries and agencies, and that work pressure at the PMC would usually mount during this season at the return of employees with medical reports extenuating their overstayed leaves.

PMC would also look into sick leaves granted by treating doctors outside Kuwait to approve or disapprove of them, which was a matter regulated by special circulars issued by the Civil Service Commission, indicating that the medical condition of the employee prevented him from boarding the plane or neces-

sitated that he undergo a surgical operation before his return to Kuwait, Khaleel said.

Estimation

He added that any sick leave falling short from being approved by the PMC would occasion a discount from the relevant employee's balance of leave days, and that in case the sick leave should exceed 14 days and yet never approved by the PMC, the employee would face dismissal from his job, in line with the civil employment law.

He said that the PMC also estimated the ages of people nominated for public positions and failing to produce health certificates certifying their ages, and those who submitted applications for age estimation to the Central Registry at the Public Health Ministry requesting certificates to be issued after the pattern of those issued by the PMC.

He added that the PMC would also estimate the percentage of injuries sustained in the line of duty which left the employee with physical handicap, and that it also carried out medical check-ups for those referred to it by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour requesting estimation of disability percentage preliminary to endorsing the deserved dis-

ability allowance.

He pointed out that doctors operating within the Ministry of Health's clinics were authorised to grant reporting public servants up to three days sick leave, but if the sick leave needed should exceed 6 or 7 days, another doctor's signature was called for.

He added that if the sick leave should exceed 7 days to four weeks, it had to be granted by two health advisors from the hospital with the director's signature affixed to it, whereas if the sick leave should exceed four weeks to three months it would then have to be granted by a committee of three doctors, one at least must be head of a unit and others health advisors.

He also said that if the required sick leave should transcend three months the leave must be referred for consideration and endorsement by the PMC's long-leave committee which would upon endorsement be referred to the employee's work agency.

He said that the PMC examined a total of 9,307 people nominated for public positions last year, and estimated the ages of 2,633 others referred to the PMC by different government agencies, and looked into 1,889 medical reports.

Cultural co-operation expected to blossom

Exchange of students, art and literature

PARIS, Sept 25, (Kuna): One of the many aspects of the smooth and friendly Franco-Kuwaiti relations is cultural co-operation, which is expected to grow even stronger with the visit to France of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

French is the second foreign language, after English, to be taught in Kuwaiti high schools, and each year there are about 10 to 15 Kuwaiti students coming to France, from beginners learning French to people who read for their B.A., M.A. or Ph.D degrees.

At the same time, there are also a number of scholarships offered by the Kuwaiti government to French students who wish to learn Arabic in Kuwait and who, sometimes, express the desire to stay a few more years in Kuwait to study the Sharia at Kuwait university.

Cultural co-operation is not only limited to the exchange of students, it does extend to artistic and literary fields with Kuwaiti painters, sculptors and writers often invited to display their works in France, especially now at the Arab World Institute in the framework of the Kuwaiti Cultural Week.

Scientific co-operation between Kuwait and Paris, though only in its very early stage, is expected to develop further in the medical, oil and marine science

sectors, notably through an agreement between the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and its French equivalent, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), the cultural attaché in Paris, Abdullatif Al-Bajani told Kuna.

Agreements

He noted that cultural and scientific co-operation was, as it is now in good, but expressed the wish for that co-operation to grow stronger and to be enlarged to other fields.

One sector in which Kuwaitis and French have been working for years together, hand in hand, is archaeology.

A French archaeological team, headed by Dr Jean-Francois Salles, is working in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities and Museums in Kuwait, under a co-operation agreement signed in 1983.

The work of the French and Kuwaiti teams is mainly centered on the Island of Failaka, believed to have been a stop-over on the route to Dilmun, a kind of paradise land cited in Mesopotamian writings. The archaeological mission expects its works on that island would contribute to the discovery of the history of Failaka, and at the same time shed light on the ancient history of what is now known as Kuwait and old time

Grane. In his book on Kuwait, soon to be published, Dr Salles wrote that the history of Kuwait goes back to 4,000 years B.C., but unfortunately that history does not seem to be a continuous one. There are several blanks, from 4,000 to 2,000 B.C., from 1,300 to 500 B.C., and again from the beginning of the Christian era until 630 A.D. and the 18th and 16th centuries, he observed.

Mission

One of the aims of the archaeological mission is to try fill in those blanks, finding evidences to confirm that Kuwait did not spring in the desert two and a half centuries ago and that its history merges into the ancient history of the Gulf region, which includes Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, he wrote.

Dr Salles noted that there is not much information about Failaka in the Bronze Age, Dilmun period, and that the Neo-Babylonian period is completely unknown, whereas several documents prove the importance of the island during that period. Excavations, in Failaka, especially of Hellenistic sanctuaries, by the Franco-Kuwaiti archaeological teams seem to point out that the island had been an important religious centre, a land of gods, and an outpost of the Seleucid forces, he said.

Gulf consultancy

Industrial data basis for development: report

INDUSTRIAL data can be considered the basic factor for industrial development and could positively affect the schemes and developmental programmes, a study issued recently by Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultations (GOIC) said.

The study which had been published by the Industrial Co-operation magazine of GOIC said that the responsibility of providing the necessary industrial data should be held jointly by the authorities concerned that issued the pertinent licence and the industrial project management. The provision of the data will help the authorities concerned in evaluating the industrial projects and analysing of the industrial sector in general and its developmental affects on the economic march.

Meanwhile, the study suggested that the industrial projects management should use the latest administrative systems which may help setting up the necessary plans and programmes for industrial installations.

Insufficient

Although the Arab Gulf countries have attached great importance to industrial development, the study said, industrial information given on industrial installations were mostly insufficient and did not reflect the financial standing of these installations.

The study, has urged the Ministries of Industry at the Arab Gulf countries to provide the necessary data about the industrial projects including the manpower of each industrial project and any other development that might occur in the volume of the industrial installations in the Arab Gulf countries either towards the number of projects or the volume of investments.

It has confirmed the importance of the industrial data inflow either annually or periodically and indicated that publishing of such data should fall within the Ministries of Industry priorities to help organise and develop the industrial sector.

On the other hand, the study confirmed that the increase in the number of the industrial projects could not be considered as a sufficient sign for the development of the industrial sector, as the efficiency of any industrial project should be considered in the light of its contribution in the Gross National Production (GNP).

Study

Meanwhile, the study said that large investments in the industrial sector significantly meant the development of the sector provided that all investment energies should be exploited perfectly. In this connection, the Industrial Data Bank at GOIC, the study said had conducted an analytic study on the industrial sector which referred that about 65 per cent of the funds allocated for industrial purposes had been invested. The study said that this means that more than one third of the industrial funds have given no yield, attributing that to the shortage in the industrial data, poor follow up over the output and the absence of co-operation and co-ordination among the economic authorities concerned.

Fences on express roads may be put up

THE Municipal General Director, Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali expressed readiness to assist the Ministry of Public Works to build a fence along the side of the express road linking Jahra and Salmi and other outside roads for the protection and safety of road users.

He said that preserving the life of citizens is the basis of their work. He praised efforts of the media in highlighting this issue to serve the interest of the country. He stressed that officials are following up all these issues to remove any obstacles to citizens.

These announcements were made by Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali during a meeting held at the Municipal general director's office last week. The meeting was attended by Eid Al Khaleel, the director of the road maintenance department at the Ministry of Public Works.

Sheikh Sabah stressed that the municipality is willing to backfill and establish suitable barriers to prevent camels crossing. This was another resolution the director proposed as a replacement of putting up fences. He urged camel owners to follow safety regulations while crossing streets and roads.

On the other hand, the representative of the Ministry of Public Works, Eid Al Khaleel stressed that his ministry is keen towards preserving the safety of road users.

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Education Ministry denies shortage of school books

THE undersecretary of the Education Ministry Abdul Rahman Al Khodari has denied any shortages in school books for various educational stages, or any current deficiencies in the number of teaching staff, both at girls or boys schools.

Speaking to a local daily, he said that the school books currently available in the ministry stores formed the surplus of last year's stocks adding that these could suffice the ministry needs for another year.

He attributed the shortages in books at certain schools to the transfers of students from one school to another without delivering their books back to their original ministry, and also as a result of the number of failing students re-registered in that school.

He said that the quantities of books dispatched to each school were based on the requisition orders submitted by each and every school identifying the number of books required by the school for a certain

year, also the type and quantity of teaching aids needed.

Estimates

Khodari added that all parents and students were urged to go through with the transfer procedures before the start of the academic year, so that the ministry would be able to estimate the number of books and teaching facilities required.

He reaffirmed the availability of sufficient stocks of school books at the ministry's stores, enough to cater to the

requirements of the next academic year, and consequently no claim was true about any existing shortages in the number of ministry books.

He pointed out that the ministry has already appointed a number of teachers in the place of those already contracted but failed to turn up in time for the new academic year and that nevertheless the ministry still was committed to fulfilling the contracts signed with teachers failing to report to work.

Kuwait to produce range of medicines

International standards maintained

THE PHARMACEUTICALS industry is one of the strategic industries — not unlike in importance with that of the oil industry. It is indeed an arm of protecting the health of human beings against diseases and epidemics.

Kuwait attaches significant importance to this vital issue and accordingly decided to be actively involved in the strategic medicines industry. To highlight this issue, a local daily interviewed the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Health, Dr Naeel Al Nageeb who is also the chairman of the Kuwait Pharmaceuticals Industries Company.

At the outset, Nageeb described rumours on the poor quality of Kuwaiti medicines as baseless and stressed that Kuwaiti medicines had been produced to exacting international standards and were acclaimed by international organisations.

Commenting on the concept of establishing pharmaceutical industries in the Gulf area, Nageeb said that it emanated from the Arab Health Ministers Council and GCC Health Ministers Council in light of the relevant studies that confirmed the importance of establishing pharmaceutical industries for the Arab Gulf countries.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Public Health in Kuwait had been authorised to establish the pharmaceutical industries. This is based on the understanding that the Kuwaiti industries should be integral with its counterparts in the area to meet the requirements of the region. Nageeb said that the GCC health ministers in this connection had called for co-operation and co-ordination in the medicines manufacturing field to avoid illegal competition among member states.

However, the official complained of the lack of co-operation among the GCC pharmaceutical companies. Unfortunately, he said there exists competition among the GCC companies rather than co-operation or co-ordination. Nevertheless, he clarified that the level of co-operation among GCC companies had recently increased.

Speaking of Kuwaiti preparations, Nageeb said that preparations had been ongoing for six years and necessary economic feasibility studies had been conducted in addition to other studies on the feasibility and scientific basis of manufacturing different medicines in Kuwait.

Kuwait has concluded several bilateral agreements with leading international pharmaceutical companies for purchasing of the necessary data required for manufacturing a broad range of pharmaceuticals. The official said that his company had permitted international companies to inspect the company's plant and had gained their approval as being of international standards. He added that the plant administration had requested the expertise and co-operation of the World Health Organisation (WHO), pharmaceutical authorities in the USA, Sweden and Switzerland.

Giving a background, the official said that initially the plant started producing items required by the local market, but with expansion, the plant is currently producing about 94 different categories of medicines. This production covers the need of the local market and a part of the Arab Gulf needs. The current output could be increased by 50 per cent in cases of emergency, Nageeb said. He disclosed that the total cost of medicines produced in Kuwait is KD5 million per annum — which could be increased to about KD8 million.

On the current status, the official said that the plant is currently producing six additional medicines which are expected to be available before the expiry of the current year. Kuwait can realise self-sufficiency in its needs for pharmaceuticals, but will need quite some time to cater to the needs of the nearby Arab region. He said: "We are a developing company and in this connection we still depend on the assistance of international research centres."

Though, developing work performance could be realised through local expertise, establishing the medical research centres entails very high financial costs.

Control

Speaking of the Medicines Control and Registration Centre of the Ministry of Public Health, Nageeb said that it enjoys a significant level of independence. The official added that its affiliation to the Ministry of Public Health is to be viewed as an organisational process.

The centre strictly supervises and controls the disbursement of medicines including those produced by Kuwait Pharmaceuticals Industries Company. The company's prices are competitive — although production costs of some items produced by international plants.

Commenting on prices, he said that some foreign manufacturers resorted to reducing their prices in an effort to dissuade local industries. Consequently, the state's protection was requested to confront foreign price manipulation. Imposing customs protection is one form of granting necessary protection for local pharmaceutical production. However, this option was not favourably looked upon by government authorities.

Sheikh Saad to fund heart centre

Nageeb deplores medical foul-ups

PUBLIC Health Ministry Undersecretary Dr Naeel Al Nageeb has said that HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah has decided to personally fund the establishment of a specialised medical centre for cardiologists to be located in the vicinity of the Chest Diseases Hospital.

He said in the course of a televised interview with Kuwait Television that the ministry's plans for the health security project were still going strong and that the allowances paid to doctors were determined by the type of specialisation and years of experience, and that the same applied to allowances offered to pharmacists and physiotherapists.

Nageeb denied any intention on the

ministry's part to make a large number of redundancies among doctors, and said that the retirement age and professional conduct were the main underlying factors deciding whether a doctor would be let go or retained.

Draft

He added that even retired doctors would be hired as private doctors if the ministry needed their services, particularly if their specialisation was rare and his years of experience indispensable.

He said that the Council of Ministers currently considered a draft bill aiming to contain Aids and curb its pernicious effects, and that it was decided to bring the medical services offered by the oil sector under the ministry's umbrella, whereby to

cut down on spending and develop the health services.

The percentage of operating medical staff in Kuwait was compatible with standard international percentages and the ministry has successfully managed over the past twenty years to uplift the average individual longevity in Kuwait and control all diseases associated with the Third World, Nageeb said.

He denied any existing shortages or deficits in the pharmaceutical stocks in Kuwait, stressing the vital and co-operative role played by the Minister of Finance Jasssem Mohammad Al Khorafi towards the Public Health Ministry and that the ministry would not hesitate to acquire all needed supplies of a certain

medical commodities or drugs through air cargo or local agents.

He deplored the existence of fatal medical foul-ups stressing that doctors were after all humans who were bound to err, and that the ministry had terminated the services of all doctors or medical staff responsible for medical mistakes and referred those falling under the category of murder to the proper criminal authorities for legal retribution.

He unveiled the ministry's intention to invite a tender for purchasing new ambulances to replace the existing worn out vehicles, pointing out that the levying of charges on the medical services would help the level of public health services offered by the government.

Travel ban on owners of penalised exchanges

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Commercial Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Rashed Al Mijren has said that some of the money-exchange companies whose practice licences have been revoked have expressed their willingness to mend their ways and have consequently settled their business obligations towards their clients.

He said in the course of an interview with a local daily that the licence revocation decision covered 19 companies. They were given a three-month deadline to work out their dealings with the public, pointing out that all disputes arising from this problem would be looked into by competent law courts. Those who believed that they were not treated fairly were urged to refer their complaints to the relevant judicial authority.

The revocation decision also included travel bans and the withdrawal of passports of all those involved in violations against the ministry regulations, as a precautionary step, preliminary to sorting out the resultant inconveniences.

One of the closed down companies was now making payments to clients holding mature cheques, while payments to bond holders deferred to later dates.

Meanwhile, a local daily has published the names of businessmen whose financial concerns were closed by a ministerial decision for violations against their authorised line of practice. They included the acceptance of deposits, opening of accounts, making foreign remittances and money orders, failure to keep regular books and offering banking services.

The list of money-exchangers put out of business included, Kuwait and Lebanon Exchange, Hilal Exchange, Wadi Al Nile Exchange, Kuwait and Egypt Exchange Establishment, Hussein Ali Ahmed Osta Exchange Establishment, International Egyptian Star Establishment, Al Qasem Exchange Establishment, Abna Al Sahel Exchange Establishment, Majed Barakat Exchange, Wadi Al Furat Exchange Establishment, Al Iman Exchange Establishment, Al Riyadh Money Exchange Establishment, Mohammad Ali Al Sarraf Exchange Establishment, Zinat Al Kuwait Exchange Establishment, Al Sharq Exchange Establishment, Al Yousef Exchange Establishment.

Sources at the ministry said that the revocation of licences was prompted by continued violation of the ministry regulation and practice licence, and that the violations were of a serious type that had to be deterred by severe punitive measures.

The sources reaffirmed that the ministry would not interfere in the settlement of business obligations between these companies and their clients.



Capital governor receives Finnish envoy

Capital Governor Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber received in his office yesterday the Finnish Ambassador to Kuwait. They exchanged friendly talks and discussed relations between Kuwait and Finland. Later Sheikh Jaber received the Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Jaber Al Khalid Al Sabah.

Judicial studies

Committee to evaluate establishment of institute

MINISTER of Justice and Legal Affairs Dhari Al Othman has issued a resolution to set up a committee of a number of judges and men of law to discuss establishment of an institute for judicial and law studies in Kuwait. The committee comprises of Judge Abdulla Al Essa (chairman), Assistant Undersecretary of Justice Ministry for Legal and Planning Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Dakhil (deputy chairman) and membership of Dhair Al Asousi, Judge Bu Gammaz and Sulaiman Abdulla.

The committee will make a study on the ability to establish a national institute for judicial and law studies to qualify and train judicial staff beside prosecution staff as well as specialists of law who work in legal affairs departments of ministries and government establishments. The committee will also formulate the structure of the institute and charters as well as requirements. It will also specify training and scientific programmes and courses that will be taught at the institute as well as the estimated costs of construction work. The committee was allowed to review and study charters of similar institutes in some Arab and foreign countries. The committee will submit a report after completing its works including recommendations.

Othman added that the visit of HH the Amir to Egypt on August 28, shows the good and strong relations between the two countries. He said that the visit opened a new stage of comprehensive co-operation between the two countries in all fields including the field of law and judgement. He revealed that Kuwait and Egypt signed an agreement for judicial co-operation in 1977 which was supported by a protocol for judicial co-operation last year. He added that the two countries are about to reach an agreement to exchange prisoners serving jail sentences in either countries (prisoners of either nation-

ality imprisoned in the other state).

Othman pointed out that the ministry has taken the required preparations for the new judicial year that will start shortly. The ministry appointed a number of Kuwaiti graduates to work as consultants at the Higher Appeal Court as from Oct 1. We are taking the required procedures to appoint a number of Kuwaiti judges at the Court of First Instance and the Summary Court. This will increase the departments of each court and helps in reviewing the biggest number of cases.

The ministry will also oblige judges and lawyers to wear judicial uniforms during their work at courts as in most countries of the world.

The ministry has completed a draft law of judgement and a draft law to organise advocacy. The two drafts laws are now being reviewed by the Council of Ministers. He hoped that two laws will be issued shortly. The ministry passed the two draft laws to judges, prosecutors and Lawyers Society before submitting them to the Council of Ministers to get their views and recommendations.

The ministry is about to complete a study to use computers in the courts and prosecution's sector during this judicial year. The computer will store all data and information about cases which will facilitate following up these cases by public and officials.

Computers will also be used in activities of the real estate registration department beside using the microfilm service. Citizens will feel a noticeable development in services of the department as from next month, Othman said.

He pointed out that the ministry is suffering from shortages in technical manpower that assists the judges. We are solving this problem gradually by preparing and training national cadres.

Amir speaks for causes, says Jaber

LONDON, Sept 26, (Kuna): Kuwait's Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad today described the current tour by the Amir of some Arab, European and African countries as necessitated by the quickened tempo of events and developments at the regional, Islamic and world levels, especially, he said, that His Highness is current Chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

In an interview with the London-based Al Hayat Sheikh Jaber indicated that "in his diplomatic activities, HH the Amir of Kuwait speaks for the causes and concerns of his Arab and Muslim nation and those of the world."

He explained that in his strive, the Amir aims at contributing to creation of a better world governed by the principles of peace, freedom, justice, prosperity and human compassion.

Speaking about the Amir's visit to France, the official praised the historic ties of co-operation in the economic, cultural, scientific and military fields between Kuwait and Paris.

He expressed confidence that the visit would strengthen bonds of amity and understanding between both leaderships and open new vistas of bilateral co-operation, particularly that the two countries share similar views of most vital issues of common concern.

Asked about the Amir's visit to Iraq, which he concluded today, the official repeated that it was a courtesy visit that followed cessation of armed hostilities between Iraq and Iran, amid encouraging signs that differences between the two would be permanently resolved through negotiations to implement Security Council Resolution 598.

One of the mainstays of Kuwait's external policy, the official added, is to mediate for a peaceful end of the Iraq-Iran dispute and to reinstate peace and reconciliation between the two parties so that they can direct their efforts towards rebuilding and contributing to Arab and Muslim causes.

On Kuwait-Iranian relations, Sheikh Jaber said resumption of full diplomatic relations with Tehran following recent appointment of an Iranian ambassador to Kuwait, is indicative of Kuwait's aspiration for a relationship of more understanding with the Tehran leadership and a start of a new era.

Senior citizens still marry teenage brides

FOR a long time now it has been a common trend for some old and middle-aged Bahraini men to wed foreign women. There may be nothing wrong in this practice of local men in having foreign wives. For indeed as explained in this column earlier the concept of mixed-marriage has increasingly become a common and acceptable phenomenon on the island in view of liberal thinking and changing social mores, particularly among the young generation. But when it comes to the question of marriage, some male senior citizens either choose on their own accord or feel compelled under complex circumstances to procure brides from abroad. What strikes perhaps to the traditional and conservative-minded sections of nationals as an unusual act is to see such men often travelling abroad specifically to certain destinations to "arrange" for a bride, who more often than not is in her teens.

Connections

This is not simply the case of old men marrying teen-aged girls of another country. The practice is generally conducted in the line of a commercial transaction whereby the unsuspecting and confused young girl is literally "sold" to the old alien stranger by her parents on the pretext of marriage for a fixed amount. Since most of these girls are in their early teens such marriages are illegal. Under Indian law it is illegal for a girl under 18 to get married.

Hyderabad, a city once renowned for its patronage of arts and culture particularly during the Mughal era in India, has been a traditional popular destination for Arab men over the years in search of "beautiful and young Indian brides." It is not difficult to explain in attraction of this central Indian city among Arabs in their quest for brides. For Hyderabad possesses a small section of its population of Arab descent. The Arab connection goes back to the days when Arab traders frequented this place. Some of these merchants remained here and married local girls. The descendants of these Arab traders continue to dwell in Hyderabad and who have in most cases retained their religious, racial and cultural identity. Young Hyderabad girls of Arab stock are invariably sought after by old Arab men from the region, including Bahrain.

Stock

In the case of Bahrain the Arab connection regarding Hyderabad is stronger considering long and close historical ties between Bahrain and India. Bahrain is also the place Indians first arrived in the region. Most of the Bahraini men marrying Hyderabad girls are in advanced years usually in their sixties and seventies. Most of them were married before with several children and grandchildren. A fair number of them are widowers who marry again because of loneliness and desire for companionship in the last few years of their lives. The reason to marry a Hyderabad girl is basically on economic grounds and the fact that the girl has Arab blood.

Hyderabad families of Arab stock are generally extremely poor. Having daughters poses considerable economic hardships on them. Getting a daughter married off in India is a daunting task that requires a fortune for such a family, which barely manages to survive. Therefore the arrival of an Arab suitor, age notwithstanding, is looked upon as God-sent to such impoverished families. For the bridegroom, marriage albeit a second one or more, to a Bahraini woman is an unlikely proposition.

First of all it is expensive bearing in mind the exorbitant amount of dowry charged and secondly no young lady in her right mind would want to marry an old man who may be a divorcee or a widower with a horde of offspring. The Hyderabad connection works to seemingly benefit both the old man and the poor girl.

The girl's family is relieved of the burden financially and hopes she will be better off abroad with chances of security in all aspects.

A marriage of this nature is usually worked out by a marriage broker in India. The prospective client, the old suitor, is sent a brochure of "suitable" brides from Hyderabad carrying profiles and photographs. Having selected the right girl the client authorises the broker to approach the relevant family for the girl's hand and to finalise the wedding as well as the financial terms. He may even come to India to personally view the girl prior to the wedding, which is really a low-keyed business of signing some documents.

Residents displeased with phone services

A LOCAL daily undertook a survey among residents and citizens to highlight their opinions on telephone information services in Kuwait.

The general consensus is that this vital service is in dire need of a major facelift.

Sulaiman Ibrahim Hamad said that occasionally, he calls up 101 telephone information to find a specific telephone number not listed in the yellow pages and more often than not is faced with delays before obtaining his needs. On several occasions, he said that the operator informs him that the telephone number is unlisted. The type of services provided are determined according to the mood of the operator, he commented.

Employees representing this department at the Ministry of Communications project an image of being uncooperative, rude and short-tempered, Saba Al Abdul Razzaq, a citizen said. The mitigating aspects for this behaviour could possibly be the high pressure of work load imposed on the operators and recommended that the number of operators could be increased to alleviate this pressure.

Sayed Qasbi, indicated that male operators have more respect for callers who request services than female operators. He suggested that each of the governorates should have its own telephone information facilities to ease pressure on the main system.

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Tareq Al-Nakhi
Secretary General
KTAA

Adel Al-Shamally
Director Training & Development
KAC

Kuwait Travel and Tourism Agencies Association has been recognised as authorised training centre for promoting international travel training programme by world bodies such as International Air Transport Association and Universal Federation of Travel Agents Association. As a local coordinator, Kuwait Airways management recommended this recognition in appreciation of professional commercial training programmes regularly conducted by KTAA, said Mr. Tareq Al Nageeb, Secretary General.

Mr. Robert Maurooux, a senior executive of IATA and Mr. Adel Y. Al Shamally, Director Training & Development of Kuwait Airways will be honoured in a special event to mark ten years of promotion of professional training programmes. More than 500 students have enrolled from Kuwait so far.



Left hand man: Mr. S.B. Durr

Right hand man: Mr. Robert Maurooux, IATA Agency Training Services Manager

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THERE is no grief which time does not lessen and soften — Cicero, Roman scholar (106 BC - 43 BC)



Yasser Arafat: peace initiative

Arafat mobilizes his peace forces

A COMEDY now touring California with the famous San Francisco Mime Troupe is a testament to Arab-Jewish dialogue. The thread that connected the nine Arab and Jewish writers who jointly wrote the play was their support of the peace initiative declared by the Palestine National Council (PNC) last year.

Masterminded by Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the peace proposal came after the start of the popular uprising or intifada. The explicit call by the intifada leaders for recognition of two states freed Arafat to mobilize his peace forces.

The Bush administration rejected the PNC call for two states and is alone in support of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's offer of limited autonomy in parts of the West Bank and Gaza. Shamir refuses to meet with any PLO delegation and insists on electing an "independent" leadership. Shamir's offer is nothing more than an ancient delay tactic. In 1976, Palestinians elected such leaders, and all were openly supportive of the PLO and independence. Eventually they were deported, murdered or dismissed.

The PNC peace proposal has effectively legitimized Israel's claim to 77 per cent of the Palestine of 1947. Even the United Nations, in UN Resolution 181, which gave birth to Israel in 1947 gave only 55 per cent of Palestine to the Jews. It is important to realize that the intifada leadership initially called for two states based on Resolution 181.

Arafat's offer achieved few results apart from recognition for an independent Palestine by 80 third-world countries. He challenged the mainstream Palestinian factions to support the two-state solution. But his efforts pushed Israel further to the right in rejection of any territorial compromise. Religious fundamentalists in Israel gained power and the settlers are more militant now than ever.

He received little from the Reagan/Bush administration. One gain was that Secretary of State George Shultz reversed a rule instated by Henry Kissinger banning open communication with the PLO. But the PLO information office in Washington was not reopened, and Secretary of State James Baker initiated a bitter battle to keep the UN from recognizing the PLO as a full member.

Arafat's peace proposals were met with some scepticism in the Arab-American community. Many held out for a single, democratic, secular state for Muslims, Jews, and Christians. But the failure to achieve this in 42 years of war prepared the way for Arafat's efforts. And how can Arab-Americans talk of a single state from a comfortable distance while Palestinians languish in refugee camps or dying in the intifada are prepared to accept two states?

But even the Arab-American peace movement would have preferred to see Arafat's conciliations as part of an international conference supervised by the UN and not giving unilaterally with the US playing the partisan mediator. The lack of progress since last December has been unsettling for Arabs who reluctantly support the peace proposal.

A serious loss for Arafat is that of imminent third-world recognition of Israel. The Soviet bloc and most independent African and Asian countries have used their non-recognition of Israel as a tool to push for Palestinian statehood. But PNC recognition of Israel has opened the way for these countries to recognize Israel before the debate begins. Arafat will effectively lose a powerful lobby too early in the negotiations.

Perhaps Arafat's most serious loss is yet to come. It is likely that Israel and the US will push for a separate Israeli-Palestinian peace excluding Syria and Lebanon. This precedent for a separate peace was set during the Camp David negotiations. The United States is a partisan mediator and the Soviet Union will be allowed limited involvement only after it improves ties with Israel. Without UN and Arab League input, the most likely outcome will be for Arafat to accept Shamir's plan as a face-saving gesture. (CSM).

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1679 — Denmark and Sweden sign Treaty of Lund, under which Danes lose all their conquests.
- 1815 — Anti-liberal Holy Alliance is formed between Austria, Russia, and Prussia to maintain Vienna settlement which revised map of Europe.
- 1850 — Freedom of the press is restricted in France.
- 1907 — New Zealand becomes self-governing dominion within British Commonwealth.
- 1918 — Allies launch offensive that eventually breaks Germany's Hindenburg line in World War I.
- 1928 — Act of League Assembly, embodying Kellogg-Briand Pact, whereby war is outlawed and disputes are to be settled peacefully, is signed by 23 nations.
- 1937 — Arabs kill British district commissioner for Galilee.
- 1950 — United Nations forces recapture Seoul, capital of South Korea.
- 1965 — Former president Juan Bosch returns to Dominican Republic from exile in Puerto Rico, and his homecoming is marred by shooting outbreaks.
- 1969 — Military junta with leftist leanings overthrows government of Bolivia.
- 1970 — Jordan's King Hussein names new government.
- 1976 — Leaders of five black African nations decline to accept plan presented by Rhodesia's Prime Minister Ian Smith to achieve black majority rule in Rhodesia.
- 1984 — Britain and China initial agreement that returns Hong Kong to Chinese rule in 1997.
- 1988 — Gunmen kill Burmese cabinet minister who had been working to rebuild nation's north and east provinces.

Cracks in settler movement

Left-wing Israelis meet Palestinians

A RARE meeting between a Jewish settler Rabbi and an Arab activist has sparked controversy among proponents of annexing occupied territory, exposing cracks created in the settler movement by the Palestinian uprising.

The two men, Rabbi Menachem Froman and Faisal Husseini, said on Sunday that they found much common ground during a five-hour conversation but feared that unplanned publicity of their dialogue could bring it to an abrupt end.

Left-wing Israelis, notably of the "Peace Now" movement have held frequent meetings with Palestinians. But settler groups like Gush Emunim, or Bloc of the Faithful, which want Israel to annex the occupied lands, have never openly met with PLO supporters.

The Israeli-born Froman, 44, a Gush Emunim activist and a resident of Tekoa in the occupied West Bank, said he sought the Sept 19 meeting with Husseini to try to arrange talks between Jewish and Muslim clerics.

"My first words were, 'you are my enemy and I know that. I have dealt with your people as a soldier,'" Froman said, recounting his talk with Husseini, a pro-PLO activist mentioned as a potential peace negotiator with Israel.

"But I consider it most important now to try to rescue the vestiges of Jewish-Arab co-existence," Froman added. He said he told Husseini more mutual Jewish-Arab trust could be built if Palestinians would end their 21-month uprising.

In the uprising, 573 Palestinians have been killed, most by gunfire from Israeli soldiers of Jewish settlers. Forty Jews also have died in Arab attacks, and 119 other Palestinians have been slain by fellow Arabs on suspicion of co-operating with Israel.

The uprising is aimed at ending Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, captured from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war. More than 70,000 Israeli settlers live in enclaves in the territories among 1.7 million Palestinians.

Froman, who supports continued Israeli control over the disputed lands, said he suggested to Husseini a "utopian" compromise where Jews and Arabs would live side-by-side, each with their own government and national flag.

Husseini told the Associated Press he replied to Froman's ideas by saying they were "not exact but close" to the Palestinian dream of statehood.

Husseini, who has spent more than 18 months in jail since 1987 for alleged PLO activism, said he felt more such meetings "will push our (Palestinian) peace proposals forward."

After news of the meeting was leaked over the weekend, Froman came under sharp attack from Gush Emunim leaders.

Movement spokesman Noam Arnon called Froman's action "treason against the settlement movement" and urged he be put on trial for meeting with a "terrorist."

Israeli newspapers said movement leaders also suggested that Froman be expelled from his settlement.



An Israeli soldier fires a rubber-coated steel ball towards Palestinian demonstrators on Sunday as another soldier (left) plugs his ears. Soldiers were attacked by Palestinians throwing rocks and bottles from within the market area. (Reuters wirephoto)

"Who can speak to this leader of terrorists," said Eliakim Haetzni, an attorney for militant settlers in Kiryat Arba near the West Bank city of Hebron. "Speaking to the leader of terrorists is like little Red Riding Hood asking the big bad wolf what he has in mind."

Other settlement activists, while insisting Froman's meeting was an error, suggested that they sympathized with his motives. Some said Froman's initiative reflected a new trend of pragmatism among Jews living in the West Bank and Gaza.

"Politically people here (in the settlements) are now ready to take the tactical rather than ideological road," said Israel Harel, editor of a weekly settler magazine "Point."

Nearly two years of confronting stone-throwing Arab youths on the highways has played a role in this change, added Harel, who lives in Ofra in the West Bank.

"More than a few believe we have to give a chance to the Shamir-Rabin plan," which calls for an interim solution of self-rule for Arabs in these areas, Harel said. "We think the time has come to be political. Two or three years ago you didn't see this."

Other signs of recent political softening by religious leaders include a controversial speech last month by a former Israeli chief rabbi, Ovadia Yosef, who suggested that Jewish law does not preclude trading territory for peace.

Another religious leader, Interior Minister Aryeh Deri of the ultra-orthodox Shas Party, told Armed Forces Radio on Sunday that Israelis may be moving towards a more conciliatory policy.

"Do we want peace or not? My impression is the public sees things differently than a year ago, that the people are tired. They want to see some hope... I think that people understand that war and conflict cannot last forever," Deri said. (Occupied Jerusalem — AP)

'One Germany' debated as changes sweep Europe

A sleeping lioness starts moving

THIRTY-FOUR years ago, a West German politician said German reunification was a "sleeping lioness" that would awaken one day with a mighty roar.

Lately, there's growing talk that reunification may no longer be the nostalgic daydream it once seemed and that both Germans could conceivably merge into a political and economic giant in the heart of Europe.

"Reunification is coming closer, but I can't say whether it will take 10, 15 or 20 years," says West German conservative politician Eduard Lintner. "We have the impression that things are much more concrete than we could have imagined five years ago."

The sight of thousands of refugees fleeing East German leader Erich Honecker's hard-line communist rule for the capitalist West has revived international interest in the debate. Some wonder whether, if East Germany's people want to unite with the Federal Republic and political conditions in Eastern Europe continue to ease, a union of the two Germans might truly be possible.

The idea of German reunification has gotten a public nod from US President George Bush and something short of a flat "No" from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. However, the idea still makes East German leaders virtually apoplectic.

"If there were a free choice under the present circumstances in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), certainly 80 per cent to 90 per cent would vote for national reunification with the Federal Republic of Germany," Lintner asserted in an Associated Press interview.

The West German constitution advocates a united Germany as a national goal. However, full reunification would completely rework the post-war European order mapped out by the conquering allies.

Havoc

After two world wars, in which Germans wreaked havoc on their neighbours, there's an undeniable legacy of fear about a reunited Germany. That's especially true in the Soviet Union and Poland, which suffered the most from the Nazi invasion but also gained former German lands in the aftermath.

London's prestigious Sunday Times on Sept 10 mapped out a possible scenario for reunification that includes massive troop reductions in Europe, Honecker's demise and further westernization of Poland and Hungary.

"Moscow unilaterally abolishes the Warsaw Pact after guarantees from Poland and Hungary that they will not join other alliances," the Times futuristic view continued. "West Germany withdraws from Nato; and a referendum in both East and West Germany votes for reunification and neutrality."

Lintner, 44, a parliament member who monitors intra-German issues for conservative Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said West Germany would insist on preserving their democratic system and membership in the European Economic Community, if neutrality were a condition for reunification.

Publisher Rudolf Augstein, commenting in a recent issue of the Der Spiegel newsmagazine, suggested some pitfalls: "There's no doubt that a speedy uniting of the two German states would shift the weight in Europe, could undermine Nato and put into danger the EEC, which already is a truly wobbly thing."

Augstein also described as "unreasonable" any suggestion that a neutral Germany could be guaranteed by US-Soviet treaty.

Josef Janning, an East-West expert at the Institute for Political Studies at the University of



Erich Honecker: hardline communist

Mainz, said he was "quite skeptical" about the chances of West Germans accepting reunification under present circumstances.

"A federal republic whose democratic and western quality was not assured would reject a reunification offer," Janning said. "For German policy as well as for the people in the Federal Republic, the standard of living is fundamentally much more important than unity."

It is assumed that West Germany, with a population of 62 million, would have to bear the financial burden of improving living standards for East Germany's 18 million citizens if the countries were to merge.

West Germany and East Germany were formed in 1949 from the rubble of World War II, as the cold war divided Europe into a pair of tense and heavily armed camps.

The implications of pulling down the Berlin Wall and other barriers to link the two German states are enormous and, for many, ominous.

Undo

Much of Western Europe, which includes West Germany, plans its own unification in 1992. But a reunified Germany might undo economic and political co-operation achieved by the European Community.

The economic centre of gravity might shift to the German side with a powerhouse of 80 million people. West Germany is already Europe's largest exporting nation, and despite its flaws, East Germany's economy is the envy of its Soviet bloc partners.

Outside Germany, voices are divided on reunification. Eva Kulesza, head of research for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe at the French Institute of International Relations, says she believes public opinion has shown a "new sort of mistrust toward Germany."

"This new fear of Germany is linked to German economic trends. Germany is much stronger, much more dynamic than France," she added.

But commentator Peter Jenkins, writing in Lon-

don's The Independent, said the "German question" should be handled without resorting to "out-of-date assumptions."

"The cold war was conducted in the name of freedom and, today, if the coming of freedom to East Germany brings a desire for unity which finds its echo in the Federal Republic, we ought not to be opposed," Jenkins said.

Since West Germany and East Germany are at the front lines of two competing alliances, any signs for eventual reunification would have to come from Washington and Moscow.

Matter

During a news conference Sept 18, President Bush said reunification is a "matter for the Germans to decide."

But he added: "If that (reunification) was worked out between the Germans, I do not think we should view that as bad for Western interests."

For his part, President Gorbachev evaded the issue of reunification during a visit to Bonn in June, saying only that "the situation in Europe today was determined by historical realities."

Willy Brandt, the Social Democrat who sought greater ties to the East as chancellor in the 1970s, said German unity doesn't necessarily mean a single state, although he called reunification a "hypothesis that cannot be excluded."

Brandt, in an interview with the French newspaper Le Monde, also referred to the prospect of hundreds of thousands of people taking to the streets in Leipzig, Dresden and East Berlin to demand reunification.

"Like (former chancellor) Helmut Schmidt, I think we must not base our policy on the possibility of an explosive movement in the German Democratic Republic," Le Monde quoted Brandt as saying. "But I cannot give any guarantee that such a movement will not occur."

As talk grows in the West, the official positions against reunification almost seem to harden in East Germany, which is losing citizens in near-record numbers. About 100,000 East Germans already have re-settled in West Germany in the latest wave, and the number is rising daily. The exodus is leaving a gaping hole in the communist nation's work force.

Otto Reinhold, head of East Germany's state-run Academy for Social Sciences, said talk of reunification contributed to an "atmosphere of confrontation."

"The German Democratic Republic is only thinkable as an anti-fascist and socialist state, and as a socialist alternative to the Federal Republic of Germany," Reinhold said Sept 17 in an interview with state-run East German radio.

Stay

Little is likely to change as long as the 77-year-old Honecker and his aging comrades stay in power. During a September 1987 visit to Bonn, Honecker said of reunification: "Socialism and capitalism can't be any more united than fire and water."

The renewed talk of reunification is recalling the nearly prophetic words of Reinhold Maier, a prominent West German state governor who later went on to head the Centrist Free Democratic Party. "Reunification is resting in our midst like a sleeping lioness. Tired and weak, indecisive people in West Germany are trying not to disturb her sleep," Maier predicted in 1955. "The lioness will one day wake up, blink, snap her tail and start to roar."

Still, many in both East and West still agree with the 1967 quip by Nobel prize-winning French author Francois Mauriac: "I love Germany so much. I'm delighted that there are two of them." (Frankfurt — AP).

Soviets face problems

US pockets concessions

THE Soviet Union's internal problems set the stage for a series of concessions by Moscow that may have provided fresh momentum to reducing superpower nuclear arsenals.

The Soviets came to this rocky mountain setting in a comprehensive mood and the United States, mindful of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's plight, was there to pocket the concessions.

One by one, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze trotted out the concessions — yielding on US plans for a space-based defence system, a dubious Siberian radar facility and sea-launched cruise missiles.

US Secretary of State James Baker was compelled to give nearly nothing in return. He agreed to consider a Soviet proposal for inspection of US radar facilities in Greenland and Britain and to consider drawing up lists of acceptable tests for the Strategic Defence Initiative space-based system.

But Baker pointed out that nothing could really be done about the radar without the consent of the host countries, Denmark and Britain.

And, he said, nothing really had changed since 1987 when the Soviets first suggested identifying which Star Wars tests were permissible under the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty.

The Soviets, on the other hand, gave and gave again.

They will let negotiators in Geneva try to complete a treaty to slash the number of long-range nuclear weapons — perhaps by half — without a parallel agreement on space-based defences.

The Soviets' best hope for trimming the SDI programme rests with the US Congress, which has cut funds amid doubts an effective defence can be mounted against ballistic missiles.

On Krasnoyarsk, the Siberian radar station that the United States says is illegal under the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty, the Soviets completely gave up. The facility will be torn apart, as the administration of former US President Ronald Reagan demanded.

As for sea-launched cruise missiles, which Baker explained at a news conference were essential to US defences, the Soviets again gave way.

Shevardnadze said they did not have to be part of the treaty under negotiations in Geneva to cut bombers, missiles and submarines by 30 to 50 per cent.

That means the United States may be able to retain its arsenal or choose to enter negotiations with the Soviets to impose limits on the weapons.

Why was Shevardnadze so obliging? An unusual conversation between Shevardnadze and Baker on the way from Washington may explain why.

The Soviet foreign minister frankly acknowledged the economic and nationalities problems of his country were huge. Baker heads were about the problems during the talks. So did Robert Zoellick, a close aide, who had dined with Soviet officials, including Gorbachev, who have been urging Gorbachev to move faster on reforming Soviet society.

Cutting weapons expenditures may not transform the Soviet economy. But it will help and appears to be driving the superpowers into arms control accord.

"We have moved from confrontation to dialogue and now to co-operation," Baker said. (Jackson Hole, Wyoming — AP)

Quote me

"If the situation doesn't stabilize, I think our government, along with the republics, will have to take concrete steps." — Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev telling lawmakers that the Kremlin will take firm steps to settle the dispute over an Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan if local officials don't solve it quickly.

"There is no chance we can accept the 10 Egyptian points unless they include the obvious and necessary for PLO participation in the political process on an equal footing with other parties." — A leaflet from the uprising's leadership rejecting the Egyptian peace plan for Israel and the Palestinians.

"They frantically chanted 'Tibetan independence' and other reactionary slogans, openly carrying out criminal activities to split the motherland, and were arrested by police on duty at the scene. They flagrantly broke the martial-law decree of (China's ruling) State Council... They were swollen with the reactionary arrogance." — The Tibet daily on the sentencing of nine Buddhist nuns to labour camps for agitation in public.

"I think Arafat sees Thailand as a weather-vane in Asia, as a pro-Western state that cannot be taken for granted and an important opinion maker in Southeast Asia." — said Thailand's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Prapas Lauephanont, on Yasser Arafat's foray into Asia for recognition of Palestinian statehood.

"Daley will always be my idol, but I think I should tell him 'now it's all over for you. I believe the future belongs to us, people like me and (West German descendent) Christa Schenk, even if we never beat his world record.'" — French decathlete Christian Plaziat to British world decathlon record holder Daley Thompson urging Thompson to call it a day with decathlon.

"Honecker has shown he is a survivor; politically and personally. If he hadn't shown up by October 7, his days as party leader at least would probably have been numbered. That's not to say his era is not drawing to a close anyway." — A Western diplomat giving his personal view of the situation in East Germany.

"She really has a big serve. She has a big kicking gallop serve, you really have to play well to beat her. She won't let you win. I pretty much know what I have to do against her. She can give me some pointers being a lefty. I need to work on my serve and come into the net a little bit. Some long rallies it would help to use the net." — said Seles, who lost the final of Virginia Slims of Dallas to Martina Navratilova.

"She is the hardest hitting 15-year-old, I think. She hits a good selection. For someone that young, it's a sign of good coaching and a good head on her shoulders," said Martina Navratilova who beat Seles in the finals of Virginia Slims of Dallas.

"He was telling me and looking right at me with his steely blues, man, looking me right in the eye. He said, stop it... so long as you're going to do that, I don't want to be around you." — Sunny Davis Jr, said in Sunday's Parade magazine, of Frank Sinatra who advised him against drugs nine years ago.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Minister outlines budget

MOSCOW, Sept. 25, (Renter): Soviet Finance Minister Valentin Pavlov outlined the country's 1990 budget today providing for defence cuts, the sale of loss-making state enterprises and the issue of bonds to have a huge budget deficit.

Pavlov was addressing the Supreme Soviet, the country's full-time parliament, on the opening day of its autumn session, due to tackle the country's economic difficulties and chronic shortages of food and consumer goods.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev opened the session with an appeal to more than 450 deputies to "adopt urgent measures to remove social tension" and move forward his "perestroika" programme of social, political and economic reforms.

Pavlov confirmed to the Supreme Soviet that the government planned to halve the budget deficit by next year to 60 billion roubles (\$96 billion). Expenditure was out at 488 billion roubles (\$780 billion) and government income at 428 billion roubles (\$674 billion).

Pavlov was making the first open disclosure of budgetary details to an elected Soviet body. Considering the budget forms part of the new parliament's function of overseeing and controlling the country's affairs.

Radical members approved the disclosures but suggested even more openness and details in disclosing defence expenditures.

Demand for Opec oil expected to be higher

MANAMA, Sept. 25, (UPI): Demand for Opec oil is expected to be some 3 million barrels per day (BPD) higher in the fourth quarter of this year than the organisation's current production ceiling, an oil industry newsletter said today.

Also today, Gulf-based oil sources said Saudi Arabia was prepared to agree at an Opec meeting in Geneva to a limited ceiling increase for the sake of Opec unity.

Algeria, Libya, Iran and Indonesia

"The Saudis have already offered to increase the ceiling but they are not willing to go the whole way," one oil industry source in Riyadh said in a telephone interview.

In a related development, the Jeddah, Saudi Arabia-based Arab News said the mainstream, of Opec oil ministers appeared to favour a roll-over of the June accord that limits the organisation's ceiling to 19.5 million BPD.

Algeria, Libya, Iran and Indonesia

are leading the groups resisting the move to increase the current production ceiling, the Arab News reported.

"All have either small reserves or production problems, so they favour price at the expense of volume," it said.

The Saudi Arabian newspaper said Kuwait had joined the group resisting moves to increase the present ceiling.

"not because it is against the ceiling raise, but because it insists that any increase should start with correcting

imbalanced assigned quota."

The Nicosia, Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said that with buoyant demand, demand for Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' crude, "is expected to reach around 22.5 million BPD in the fourth quarter."

MEES said the increased demand would be some 3 million BPD above the current Opec ceiling, "but only slightly above actual Opec output at present."

The newsletter made the prediction as oil ministers yesterday adjourned their talks in Geneva without apparent solution to the problem of Opec output violators.

It said in a commentary that failure to raise substantially Opec's output ceiling at the Geneva meeting would be "tantamount to an open invitation to continue the present rampant indiscipline as regards quotas."

MEES said such adjustments had so

far been blocked by other major players who regard "protecting their own market share as an overriding priority."

The influential newsletter suggested that the issue could only be resolved, "by departing from pro-rata and weighting the distribution of quota increases more squarely in the direction of those producers who have surplus capacity to meeting a growing world demand for oil in the 1990's."

Worried West knocks dollar down

IMF expects big boost in resources by year-end

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25, (Renter): The United States is likely to agree soon to back an increase of up to \$80 billion in the International Monetary Fund's resources so it can boost growth in poor countries and cushion any economic shocks in the industrial world, a top IMF official said today.

Dutch Finance Minister Onno Ruding, chairman of the IMF's policy-making interim committee, said he expected an increase by the end of the year of between 50 per cent and 67 per cent in the fund's pool of resources, now \$120 billion.

"It's very well possible that it will be 67 per cent," Ruding told a press conference after the committee had met.

For an increase to materialise, US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady would have to back off from his insistence on Sunday that the IMF had no pressing

need for more money.

The United States, as the largest economy, has the power of veto in the 152-nation agency, which makes loans to countries with balance-of-payments difficulties.

Brady said he was committed to making a decision on extra resources by the end of the year and US officials say they will have more flexibility to ask Congress for the money once the 1990 budget has been finalised, probably in mid-October.

Ruding said the IMF had enough cash for now, but added: "From the date of a political agreement, it takes up to two years before the necessary ratifications can be reached."

That is one of the main arguments, to say we should hurry up."

Finance ministers gathered here for the annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank were able to enjoy a clear success in curbing

the high-flying dollar.

Central banks followed up Saturday's tough statement by the Group of Seven industrial nations opposing a further dollar rise by selling dollars as soon as currency markets opened in Asia this morning.

Concerned sales continued in Europe, pushing the US currency down by 2.5 per cent against the West German mark to around 1.90 marks. Dealers counted at least 11 central banks in the market.

"This impressed the markets," Karl Otto Poehl, the president of West Germany's Central Bank, said.

French Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy said the intervention showed that the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada were united.

"The statement meant what it said. I referred to close co-operation between central banks on the exchange markets. We have the confirmation and illustration of that," he said.

The Group of Seven fears a higher dollar would worsen the US trade deficit by making US goods too expensive overseas and sucking in imports.

The IMF expects the US trade gap to widen again, posing a potential threat to financial stability and the growth industrial countries have enjoyed most of this decade.

Matching their government's words with deeds, major central banks staged an assault on the dollar today and knocked it down by about 2.5 per cent.

Gold firmed \$2 on the back of the weaker US currency to finish in London at \$367 an ounce. In London share prices fell in very thin trading as a sharply lower dollar sent Wall Street into a slide, dealers said.

Iran repairs oil refineries

ATHENS, Sept. 25, (UPI): Iran has rebuilt four war-damaged oil refineries, a petrochemical plant, two liquefied natural gas plants, and several other industrial units over the past one year, Tehran Radio said today.

The state radio, monitored in Athens, quoted Mohammad Mirzadeh vice-president for executive affairs, as saying reconstruction teams have also rebuilt war-damaged houses in 54 small towns and expect to have 11 heavily-damaged cities rebuilt by March 1992.

The vice-president said Iran had already spent 90 billion rials (some \$1.3 billion) of the reconstruction work so far, including the Abadan oil refinery (first phase) and three other oil refineries at Tabriz, Isfahan and Bakhtaran.

He said the Razi petrochemical plant at Bandar Mahshahr had also been rebuilt, while 70 per cent of the work on the war-damaged Kangan natural gas refinery, on Iran's Gulf coast, has been completed.

Work on other industrial units, heavily damaged by Iraqi shelling or bombing in the eight-year Gulf war, was also under way, the Iranian vice-president said.

Mirzadeh, who is chief of the reconstruction headquarters, was speaking at a press conference in Tehran on the occasion of defence week, marking the 9th anniversary of the start of the Iran-Iraq war in September 1980.

The vice-president said reconstruction teams, using Iran's internal resources, had built war-damaged houses in 54 small towns since the Aug. 30, 1988 ceasefire that ended the war, but work was still continuing on 11 heavily damaged cities.

He listed the 11 heavily-damaged cities as Khorramshahr, Abadan, Bostan, Mehran, Dehloran, Marivan, Qasr Shirin, Gilan Gharb, Mehriz, Nowrud and Sumar and said they were expected to be rebuilt by March 1992.

Talks on buyout

NEW YORK, Sept. 25, (Renter): Columbia Pictures Entertainment, the Hollywood movie studio, said today it was holding talks on being acquired by a party it did not identify.

Sony Corporation, the Japanese electronics conglomerate, has been rumoured to be interested in Columbia.

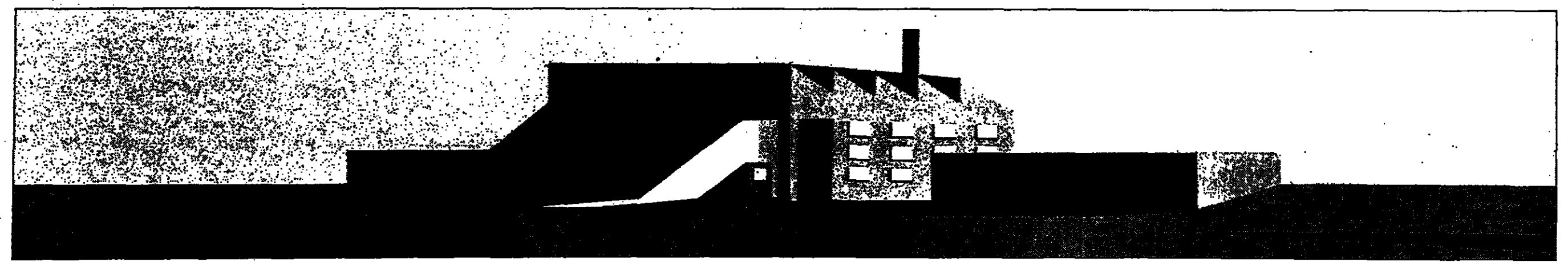
An acquisition of the studio, one of the leading producers of television programmes and the maker of such recent film hits as "When Harry met Sally" and "Ghostbusters II" would cost at least \$2 billion.

Columbia said its board would meet later to review the status of the talks.

Coca-Cola Company spun off the entertainment business in late 1987, in a deal that combined its entertainment holdings, including the old-line Hollywood Studio, Columbia Pictures, with Tri-Star Pictures, a relatively new film-maker. The soft-drinks giant kept 49 per cent of the new company.

Columbia, which has about 110.7 million shares outstanding and closed at \$21.125 on Friday, gave no further details.

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A group with a gross block of over Rs.6800 million and net worth of Rs.2000 million.

A group that has already successfully proven itself in that gruelling battlefield — shipping.

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TWO Essar Gujarat Limited, a profit making company with a turnover of Rs.509 million, is already a major force in India's core sector.

The company has made substantial investments in Mega-construction projects, Offshore and Energy.

Most of the contracts were won in the face of stiff international competition.

Essar Gujarat is in the process of setting up the world's largest gas based hot briquetted sponge iron plant.

This Rs.3050 million plant in Hazira, Gujarat, will be completed by early 1990 and will meet the enormous demand for sponge iron in the country — a gap which is expected to be 4.5 million tonnes in 1990.

THREE Essar Gujarat Limited is now making a spectacular entry into steel with a

Rs.14000 million steel plant.

This steel complex will be the second largest in the Indian private sector.

Metchem, a subsidiary of US Steel, has conducted a detailed feasibility study for Essar and confirmed the technical, financial and marketing viability of this project.

The project will be largely unaffected by international exchange fluctuations as most raw materials used are indigenous.

At the marketing end, Essar Gujarat is already in the process of tying up with leading commodity trading houses.

FOUR As the entire project is a 100% export oriented one, the Government of India will not levy any duties on import of capital equipment and raw materials.

At the same time, Government regulations permit 25% of the production to be marketed in India.

In addition, any sales made to authorised steel importers in India, would be considered as exports.

FIVE This project will make Essar Gujarat the largest exporter of steel in India.

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Audited figures of the company show a turnover of

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This turnover is expected to touch Rs.12500 million by 1995. While net profit is expected to soar to Rs.1700 million.

Likewise, gross assets which stand today at Rs.3044 million, are projected to reach Rs.21000 million by 1995.

SEVEN A special feature of the Issue: One warrant will be attached with each Convertible Debenture and will be detachable and freely tradeable.

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By making substantial investments in the core sector.

So, if you're thinking of investing in your homeland, there's no better time than now.

Terms of the instrument

Secured Convertible Debentures. Face Value Rs.180 each. Rate of interest: 12.5% per annum, payable half yearly.

Conversion terms

The debenture will comprise of two parts: Part A: Rs.80 will be converted into 2 equity shares of par value Rs.10 each at a premium of Rs.30 each on 1st June 1990.

Part B: Rs.100 will be converted into 2 equity shares at par value Rs.10 each at a premium of Rs.40 each on 1st June 1992 (subject to approval of the Controller of Capital Issues).

Listing

The debentures are proposed to be listed at the Bombay, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bangalore Stock Exchanges.

Bankers to the Issue:

Kirwa: Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait U.A.E. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, Bank of Baroda, British Bank of Middle East, Grindlays Bank p.l.c., Bank of Credit and Commerce International, Qatar: British Bank of the Middle East, Grindlays Bank p.l.c. Bahrain: Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, Bank of Baroda, Bank of Credit and Commerce International, British Bank of Middle East, State Bank of India.

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BUSINESS

Japanese pay 40pc more for commodities

TOKYO, Sept 25, (UPI): Japanese pay nearly 40 per cent more for commodities than counterparts in the United States and West Germany but are partly to blame because they shun cucumbers with wrinkles and demand pink ribbons on their \$100 melons, a government report said today.

The Economic Planning Agency released results of a survey conducted last November comparing 400 types of goods and services in Tokyo, New York and Hamburg, West Germany.

It found, for example, that rental housing and most imported foods are twice as expensive in Tokyo than the other two cities.

Specific items such as beef and rice are three times more costly in Tokyo than in New York while gas for heating and cooking are twice as pricey.

Automobiles and durable leisure goods, from golf clubs to yachts, are marked roughly the same in all three cities.

Some goods and services including health care and education, are even a little cheaper in Tokyo.

Overall, the planning agency's survey found prices 39 per cent more expensive in the Japanese capital than in the other cities.

Surveys of exorbitant prices in Tokyo are nothing new. One study even claimed that if the 284-acre Imperial Palace grounds in central Tokyo were cut into parcels and sold on the open market, it would be worth more than the state of California.

During his recent visit to Japan, US Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher pushed a theme that the Japanese consumer was the major victim of Japan's clam-like marketing system, which allowed few imports in and charged exorbitant prices to consumers when they were.

While the planning agency cited Japan's multi-layered distribution and government regulations as root causes, it also blamed Japanese consumer attitudes and centuries-old customs as major factors.

It said Japanese were so fussy that they pass over bumpy cucumbers and insist on pink or red ribbons tied to the knot of musk melons, which can cost as much as \$140.

Japanese are so accustomed to high-priced services that they have yet to discover the self-serve gasoline station. A virtual thing of the past in the United States, gas station attendants in Japan descend on incoming autos, wiping windows and checking oil, and charging accordingly.

During Japan's summer and year-end gift-giving seasons, Japanese tend to ignore value and buy only high-priced goods to give to relatives, friends and bosses.

"Some Japanese consumers have a tendency to select goods based on price rather than quality, the higher the price the better. This does little to help create downward pressure on prices," the report said.

While most consumers accept the high prices without complaint, a growing number of Japanese travelling to the United States and Europe are awakening to the lower prices abroad.

A record 10 million Japanese travelled overseas last year, shelling out an average of \$700 each, much of it to bring back cheaper foreign goods like cosmetics and even Japanese electronic products which ironically are often sold at lower costs in America.

Indian rupee.....	18.060
Sri Lankan rupee.....	7.590
Pakistani rupee.....	14.340
Bangladesh taka.....	9.200
US dollar.....	239.70
Pound sterling.....	483.75
Deutsche mark.....	157.60
UAE dirham.....	0.8158
Japanese yen.....	0.02106

Company provides 2.5 million meals a year, says Al Duwaisan

Kasco to expand operations

By M.C. Bose
Business editor

KUWAIT Aviation Services Company (Kasco) has achieved an internationally recognised standard of service which is supported by the fact that more than 21 major airlines regularly uplift meals from its unit. Foremost among these carriers are British Airways, Japan Airlines, KLM, Air India, Air Lanka, Royal Jordanian Airlines, Austrian Airlines and Air France.

Khalid Yousef Al Duwaisan, Managing Director and Director General of Kasco told the Arab Times that today it provides 2.5 million meals a year, serving more than 21 major international airlines.

Al Duwaisan said Kasco, the wholly owned subsidiary of Kuwait Airways was formed in 1981 to develop ground handling services at Kuwait International Airport.

Operations were started on June 22, 1983 with the opening of Kasco's new flight catering facility that was designed to supply meals for Kuwait Airways and foreign airlines operating through the Kuwait International Airport.

He said in addition to the usual flight kitchen facility, Kasco took the pioneering step to incorporate a modern fully equipped microbiological food laboratory in order to ensure that the highest possible level of hygienic production methods are implemented.

In 1988, Kasco (on behalf of Kuwait Airways) looked overseas in order to expand its operations with negotiations at London's Heathrow Airport for a joint venture between Kuwait

Airways, Saudia, Gulf Air and the Marriott Corporation of USA. These discussions culminated with the signing in Bahrain on October 4th, 1988 of a joint venture agreement, whereby the GCC Airlines have purchased a 50 per cent equity share in Marriott's Heathrow Inflight Catering Facility (Marriott's flight catering facility at London's Heathrow Airport).

Al Duwaisan said further joint ventures are currently being negotiated in the USA, the Middle East and the Far East, with a corporate target of one joint venture completed by the end of this year, with projects that will be completed at the rate of 2 per cent from 1990.

He added within Kuwait, Kasco is currently involved in in-depth discussions with various interested parties regarding the possible supply of meals in accordance with Kasco's high standards, as well as food.

In 1985, Kasco set up a travel agency that undertook worldwide hotel reservations. Additionally, 1985 saw a consolidation of Kasco's activities as the staff had increased to 1,414 in a period of 3 years.

Kasco is also negotiating with other airlines, including Lufthansa, Olympic Airways, Yugoslavian Airlines, Lot Polish, to provide on-board meals. Kasco's attention to details and its production of meals under the most rigorous conditions of hygiene, as well as its competitive prices, have helped to give it an edge in this field.

The standards of our flight kitchen is the most important if you want to convince airlines to uplift from us. Our advanced



HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, presented with Kasco shield by Khalid Al Duwaisan and Rudy Hamdallah, assistant director, marketing and sales.

laboratory testing facilities and the high standards of our gastronomy are all factors as well," Al Duwaisan said.

Kasco is also considering co-operation with the two GCC partners on other matters, including insurance, fuelling, crew accommodation and ground handling, as well as food.

Al Duwaisan, has been recently elected as chairman to "Marriott/GCC" from flight

services based at Heathrow Airport, London. This comprises Saudia, Gulf Air, KAC and Marriott Co.

At the first meeting held by the board of directors, they discussed the progress achieved by the company regarding its structural expansion, which will be culminated by establishing a specialised Islamic kitchen. The proposed expansion will cost about £3 million and will be completed by

February 1990. Saudia and Gulf Air will start catering for their aircraft from the company's kitchens before the end of this year. The other Islamic airlines however, will be invited to cater for their fleets from Marriott GCC after the completion of the Islamic Kitchen Unit in 1990. Kuwait Airways started catering for its aircraft from the company's kitchens in July 1988.

Minister favours privatisation drive

Free market economy planned

WARSAW, Sept 25, (Reuters): Poland's new industry minister is getting ready to expose the country's creaking industries to privatisation and the harsh law of "a normal free market economy."

"The state is not a good owner," Tadeusz Syryjczyk, the 41-year-old Solidarity minister, said in a weekend interview. "I agree with the general goal of privatisation."

After 45 years of communist rule that ended with the installation of the new Solidarity-led government on September 12, the state owns 90 per cent of Polish industry.

Syryjczyk, an engineer and computer enthusiast who describes himself as a pragmatist, said the government was setting up an office of privatisation but had not yet decided how to apply the policy.

"There is agreement about privatisation but some internal groups are not unanimous about the method," he told Reuters. "There are some troubles in reconciling points of view."

Syryjczyk said it was too early to outline detailed plans for Polish industry before Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz unveiled the overall government blueprint for economic change.

He could not even assess the state of industry because communist planning had left the pricing system in tatters. But in the next few months the government would make "some quick moves which prepare us for a normal free market economy."

These included tightening industrial taxation, moves towards dismantling monopolies, balancing the state budget and creating a sound, convertible currency.

Syryjczyk revealed a "laissez faire" philosophy revolutionary in Poland after the state centralisation under which planners set production targets, prices and inputs.

"I want to change the system to the point where the administration must not make any decision about production and about prices," Syryjczyk said.

"Every enterprise — private, state or co-operative — must work under the same conditions and they must be hard conditions. Equal but hard market conditions. And equally hard administrative conditions, with no tax exemptions for some."

Syryjczyk said the state would also stop financing industry and he was already telling enterprises that asked for state investment to ask the West for capital.

"We force them ... we suggest to them that forming joint ventures with foreign investors is the only way to develop because the state has no money for investments," he said.

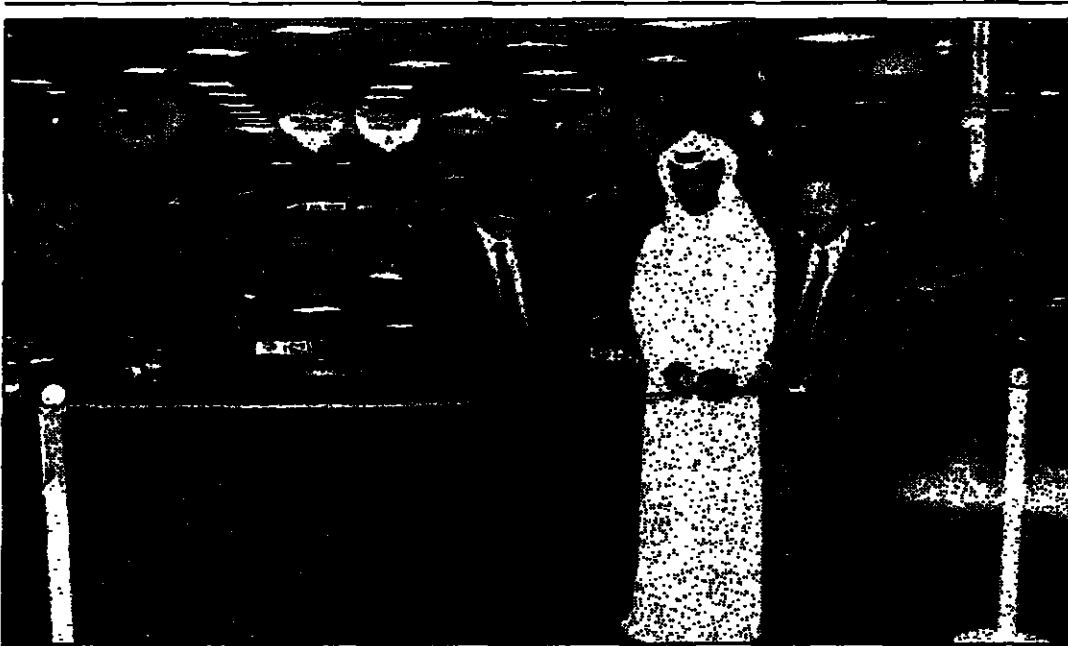
Despite his anti-interventionist philosophy, Syryjczyk said he might have to act against his principles to help break up heavy industries because they were tying up resources needed to launch a market economy and develop consumer industries.

"I don't like thinking in planning terms but we must take some state decisions in this process," he said.

"We must do it to free resources for the market. It's impossible to start a market economy without free resources."

He declined to reveal how far he would move against the huge mining and metallurgical industries until he could fit in his proposals with the government's overall plans.

"I am not afraid of this kind of decision but I am afraid to speak about this kind of decision or make it until we have a general concept," Syryjczyk said.



Picture shows Khalid Najeeb Al Mulla opening the Mitsubishi Motor Show flanked by Director Narenthiran (left) and PR Manager Talal Jallad.

Mitsubishi unveils '90 line-up

THE Mitsubishi 1990 model line-up was introduced to the Kuwait public in a glittering ceremony held at the Sour St. showroom of Maszalah Trading Co. Mitsubishi which has introduced three new award winning vehicles last year continued to lead the way with more performance oriented cars for the 90's.

The popular Galants, Colts and

Lancers are available in fashionable new colours. For the recreation-minded, Mitsubishi is offering the Pajeros in 4 and 6 cylinder configurations, in attractive new striping along with the L-300 mini bus and the luxurious Exceed models.

The line-up also includes reliable L-200 pick-ups and Canter trucks. The special motor show and car

introduction will continue till the November 15 at all three M.T.C. automotive showrooms.

The company has announced special prizes worth over KD 21,000 including 4 vehicles, cash, air tickets, TV, videos, etc. to be won in a draw for vehicle purchasers during the event.

US officials to visit Moscow for economic talks

NEW YORK, Sept 25, (Reuters): The chairman of the Federal Reserve Board and a top State Department official will travel to the Soviet Union next month for discussions on President Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reform programme, a senior US official said today.

The extraordinary talks follow two days of intensive superpower meetings in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, between Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

They underscore the changing nature of the US-Soviet agenda, which has broadened in recent months to include American advice on the deeply troubled Soviet economy.

The senior official, who asked not to be identified, said the decision to send Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, and Robert Zoellick, a top aide to Baker, was made this weekend during the Wyoming talks.

After trout fishing on Sunday morning, the two ministers flew separately to New York where they

will attend the United Nations General Assembly this week.

Greenspan and Zoellick are due to go to Moscow for three or four days in mid-October at the invitation of a leading Soviet economics expert, said the official, who briefed reporters aboard Baker's plane from Wyoming.

The Bush administration has been criticised at home for not doing enough to assist Gorbachev, whose economic woes may be his political undoing.

Bush and Baker have resisted any idea of direct US aid, such as loans or grants, but Baker has said US officials are willing to give informal advice on such matters as price reform and converting the rouble.

There is an interest (on the Soviet side) in taking steps to open up that economy and move it toward a more open system and perhaps there are some things we could contribute there," Baker told a press conference on Saturday.

Money supply growth accelerates

Kuwait banks' local and foreign assets on the rise

FROM the data available in June 1989, a noticeable growth can be noticed in the aggregate balance sheet of local banks (commercial and specialised), totalling KD157 million (1.2 per cent) over the previous month. The major part of this growth is concentrated in the aggregate balance sheet of commercial banks. This growth is mainly attributed to an increase of KD121 million in foreign assets and KD36 million in local assets, according to CBK Monetary Review.

On the side of liabilities in the aggregate balance sheet of local banks the local resources of these banks increased by KD148 million, including KD133 million in other liabilities, which consist mainly of interbank deposits and CBK deposits, and KD15 million in residents' deposits (government and private sector).

Foreign resources of local banks increased by KD9 million over the previous month because of the increased

cost of borrowing from international financial markets on the one hand, and the availability of its resources in foreign currencies on the other.

As for Central Bank balances with local banks, it was noticed that the net balance of the Central Bank claims on local banks increased in June 1989 by KD16 million (8.2 per cent), due to the increased claims of the Bank on these banks through deposits with them and swap operations. Meanwhile, discount operations declined by KD4 million.

Regarding the issuance of public debt instruments, the Central Bank of Kuwait offered in June 1989 four issues of treasury bills (issues No. 55, 57, 58 and 59), totalling KD499.05 million. Meanwhile, four issues (from issue no. 42 to issue No. 45) matured during the same month, totalling KD450 million, thus raising the balance of treasury bills to KD1538.1 million.

Interest rates on interbank KD

deposits were relatively high on all deposit maturities. Rates of increase ranged between 2.32 per cent (from 9.06 per cent to 9.27 per cent on one-year deposits and 8.53 per cent (from 9.34 per cent to 10.14 per cent) on one-week deposits.

Meanwhile, they were 7.28 per cent (from 9.22 per cent to 9.89 per cent) and 4.96 per cent (from 9.12 per cent to 9.57 per cent) on both one-month and three-month deposits respectively.

These developments in money market interest rates reflect the liquidity position of the banking system and the Central Bank's intervention in the money market with a view to regulating liquidity levels in that system.

The rate of decline in the KD exchange rate against the US dollar slowed down in June 1989 to 1.13 per cent against 1.26 per cent in the previous month. This rate ranged between 294.16 fils and 299.93 fils per dollar, a monthly average of 296.67 fils.

The KD exchange rate realised a marked improvement against other major currencies at rates ranging between 1.27 per cent (against the Deutsche mark) and 4.34 per cent (against the pound sterling).

Meanwhile, these rates were 3.77 per cent and 1.51 per cent against both the Japanese yen and the French franc respectively. Comparing these rates with those of the increase in the US dollar exchange rate against the same currencies, it can be realised that the KD performance was more stable than that of the US dollar, which increased at rates ranging between 5.55 per cent (against the pound sterling) and 2.43 per cent (against the Deutsche mark). Meanwhile, these rates were 4.96 per cent and 2.68 per cent against the Japanese yen and the French franc respectively.

Issues of treasury bills were oversubscribed in June 1989, ranging between 107.6 per cent (for issue No. 58) and 180.9

per cent (for issue No. 55), an average of 136.7 per cent for all issues. Interest rates acceptable by the Central Bank on these issues ranged between 8.44 per cent (on issue No. 55) and 8.98 per cent (on issue No. 59).

On the other hand, the Central Bank offered one issue (No. 56) of treasury bonds, totalling KD30 million, of one year maturity, with an annual interest rate of 8.5 per cent.

Meanwhile, issue No. 15 of these bonds, totalling KD50 million, matured, reducing the balance of treasury bonds to KD445 million. Thus, the outstanding balance of public debt instruments (treasury bills and bonds) totalled KD 1983.1 million at the end of June 1989, an increase of KD29 million (1.5 per cent) over the previous month.

In June 1989, money supply increased by KD86 million (1.6 per cent) over the previous month to reach KD5391 million.

Battered Lebanese pound gets a boost

Confidence boosted

BEIRUT, Sept 25, (Reuters): Thousands of Lebanese rushed to banks today to change their dollars for pounds after an Arab peace plan boosted confidence in the battered local currency.

The pound regained eight per cent of its value against the dollar on the first trading day since an Arab League ceasefire ended six months of bloody artillery battles across Lebanon.

The dollar closed at 460 pounds, down 40 from Friday's close of 500.

It opened at \$487.50 and quickly plunged to 450 before the Central Bank, fearing a rapid fall in the US currency's value would have a negative impact on the market, intervened and offered to buy at 460, bankers said.

Adham Safa, a bank employee, said he had not seen such a demand for the pound in at least a year.

The pound, once one of the Middle East's most stable currencies, was worth five to the dollar only six years ago but plummeted as Lebanon's bloody conflict worsened.

Mahmoud Khodari, a foreign exchange dealer at the Arab Bank, said optimism in the political and security situation had spread to the exchange market.

"People, confident that peace would reflect positively on the economy, rushed to change dollars to pounds," he said. "This created a huge supply of dollars and, in a free market like ours based on supply and demand, the pound rallied."

Jack Pedro, who waited in line for an hour, said he exchanged all his savings of several thousand dollars.

"This time it looks as if the Lebanese crisis is heading for a final solution which made me regain confidence in the pound and sell my dollars," he said.



Picture shows Robert Mauroux (extreme right) pictured with other officials.

IATA official visits SIBA

ROBERT Mauroux, the senior executive of International Air Transport Association "will visit Skyline Institute of Boodai Aviation tomorrow with a view to promote "Air Cargo Training" self study Diploma programme operated world-wide in 90 countries.

Skyline Institute is the only authorised training centre in the Middle East which enrolls students for International Diploma both in IATA-UFTAA and IATA-FIATA and offers classroom training to assist self study programme, in appreciation of promoting professionalism in the field of "Air Cargo Training". Skyline Institute will also honour Kuwait Airways Training and development Director Adel Al-Shamali and IATA Manager Robert Mauroux, Manager of Cargo Agencies and Skyline Institute will take part in a felicitation function which will be held on Sept 27 at 7.30 pm at Kuwait Sheraton. Mauroux is arriving from Geneva specially to attend this function.

Tokyo share prices

Nikkei stock average: 34960.71 (+188.92)	
Volume: 550 mil shs	
Yen exchange rate: 142.95	
Name of stock	Clg
Advantech Corporation	4890
Ajinomoto	2790
Alps Electric	1830
Amada	1930
Asahi Chemical Indus	1240
Asahi Glass	2320
C. Itoh Co.	990
Canon Inc.	1840
Casio Computer	1400
Dai Nippon Printing	2300
Daichi Sanyaku	3100
Dainippon Pharmaceut	2810
Daiichi Kasei	2440
Eisel	2440
Fame Ltd.	7300
Fuji Photo Film Co.	4560
Fujitsu Ltd.	1590
Hitachi Credit	2000
Hitachi Koki	1900
Hitachi Ltd.	1570
Hitachi Metal	1570
Honda Motor	1990
Ito-Yokado Co. Ltd.	4600
Kajima Corporation	2080
Kawasaki Heavy Ind.	1050
Kobe Cast Iron Works	960
Kokusai Elec.	3100
Komatsu Ltd.	1270
Kyocera Corporation	3900
Marex	3390
Matsushita Comm. Ind.	3100
Matsushita Electric	2328
Mazda Motor Corp.	1060
Mitsubishi Corporation	1550
Mitsubishi Estate	2430
Mitsubishi Heavy Ind.	1140
Mitsui Bussan Indus	1880
Mizuno Corporation	2680
Mochida Pharmaceutical	3930
Mori Seiki Co., Ltd.	4300
NEC Corporation	1800
Nikon Corporation	1500
Nippon Shuppan Co. Ltd.	1870
Nippon Steel Corp.	756
Nippon Soda Co. Ltd.	2520
Nitazuko Corporation	1480
Nomura Securities	3160
Okuma Machinery Work	1720
Onward Kashiwano Co.	2260
Orix Corporation	6800
Pioneer Electronic Co.	5200
Renown Look Inc.	2540
Sanyo Electric Co.	870
Sanyo Co. Ltd.	7920
Shin-Etsu Chemical Co.	1750
Shindengen Electric	1200
Sony Corporation	8400
Sumitomo Elec. Ind.	1510
Sumitomo Metal Ind.	722
Takada Chemical Ind.	2420
TDK Corporation	3850
Tokio Marine Fire	2100
Tokyo Elec. Power	5700
Tokyo Electron Ltd.	3560
Toppan Printing	2000
Toray Industries Inc.	990
Toshiba Corporation	1260
Toyota Motor Corp.	2540
Yaskawa Electric Mfg.	1330
UPTI Ltd.	
Beany Pharm	1820 dn 10
Calpis	1460 dn 10
Canon	1840 up 20
Daiwa House	2660 up 20
Fuji Bank	3610 up 40
Fuji Elec.	1070 dn 20
Fuji Photo	4560 dn 20
IAT	17100 up 100
Kajima	2080 up 40
Kirin	1900 up 10
Komatsu	1270 up 40
Mitsui Bank	2640 up 60
Nissan	1470 dn 10
Nomura	3160 up 90
Nippon Heavy Ind.	1240 up 30
Osaka	2460 up 30
Shary	1390 dn 10
Shiseido	2120 up 40
Taisei	1540 up 30
Yokogawa	1880 dn 30

Provided by Nomura Investment Banking (Midwest), Bahrain

Bombay prices

BOMBAY Stock Exchange - Closing prices (Rs) as on: Sept 25, 1989:	
ACC	262
Asia Paint	200
Brooks Bond	87.50
Bajaj Auto	301.25
Baroda Rayon	717.50
Bombay Dyeing	126
Century Spinning	2160
Colgate	172.50
BSE Index	726.26
Deepak Fert.	29.50
E.I. Hotel	59
Esayel	115
Essar	22.75
GNFC	31.50
GSFC	161.25
Grasim	100
G.E. Ship	41.25
Garware Polyester	70.50
Ghinda	93
Hindoccos	131.25
Hind Lever	99
Hindalco	248.75
Hindmotor	52.75
I.T.C.	70
Indian Organic	47
Indrayan	82.50
Indro	240
J.K. Synthetics	73
Larsen and Toubro	100
Mather PL	130.50
Mukand	16.35
Master Shri	94
Mahindra	194
Mico	625
Nocil	1055
Orkay	15.

15000

EVENTS



The Sheba Sound

OCTOBER 14, 15 and 16 will see the first visit to Kuwait of Sheba Sound, an unusual ensemble of oboes, bassoons and harpsichord. They have established a reputation of high standard musicianship combined with wit and expert spoken and visual presentation.

The group have performed in Italy, West Germany, Belgium and Holland as well as Britain on radio and television. They tailor their repertoire to suit each venue, and have added a special arrangement of Arabic folk songs to their programme for their first Middle East tour. The works they perform range from baroque to pop, early court and theatre music to Victorian polkas, serious New Works to modern jazz.

This is their first visit to Kuwait and will certainly be an unusual and enjoyable addition to the cultural scene.

Two concerts have been arranged: October 14 — at the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School, and a combined dinner and recital at the Messilah Beach Hotel on 15 October. This part of their tour is supported by Tanagra. Please ring 5382099 to order your tickets as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Salem Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem Street, Near
the Sheraton Hotel
Ebin Rusd Pharmacy
Duaib Souq, Souq Kuwait
Building
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Joudar Pharmacy
Hawalli, Tunis Street, Al
Saqali Property
Al Shefa Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak Street,
Hmoud Al Enzi Complex
Fahad and Ahmad
Al Khalef Pharmacy
Fahad, Al Mohama Street,
Abdullah Al Rabee Building
Kheitan
Al Tasamoh Pharmacy
New Kheitan, Ebin Screen
Street, Property of Dalal
Mthal
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
Jahra, The New Commercial
Market

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Nuts
Sahliya
Hall Booked
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-In
Arabic film
Al Firdos
Bawara
Fahad Open
Jasduar
Fahad
Young Guns
Al Jahra
Sona Bou
Granada
Mukti
Sahibkhat
Willow
Jeeb
Do Rajkumar

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 The Opening and Holy
Quran
9.15 Sabah Al Khair News
and Variety
9.30 Cartoons
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite
10.15 Mawlood Fi Al Waqt
Al Daye: Arabic serial
(part 15)
11.00 Sabah Al Khair News
and Variety
11.15 Ajlah Wamlah: local
serial (part 10)
12.00 Sabah Al Khair News
& Variety
12.15 Tareeq Fariya: Arabic
feature, starring
Samer Shami, Rula
Hamdi, Edwar Ha-
shem and Wafa
Taraba
1.00 News Summary

1.05 Holy Quran & Closed-
own

Evening

4.15 The World Today via
Satellite
4.45 Children Stories: car-
toon serial
5.15 Cartoons
6.15 Nihayat Saif: Arabic
serial (part 9)
7.15 Night Chemists:
Airlines and Official
Advertisements
7.45 Special Variety
8.00 Summer 1989: local
programme, pre-
sented by Wafa Taba
8.15 Nadwat Al Osboo:
local programme
9.00 Arabic News
9.45 Alf Wajh Lil Haqeeqa:
Arabic serial (part 1),
starring Salah Tho Ai
Foqar, Mohsena Taw-
feeq, Mohammed

Ridha and Imad

Rashad
10.30 Wadaak Hobak:
Arabic film, starring
Fareed Al Atrash,
Shadiya, Ahmad
Ramzi and Abdul
Salam Al Nabulsi
12.30 News Summary
12.35 World Today via
Satellite
1.00 Holy Quran & Close-
down

KTV 2

6.00 Opening and Holy
Quran
6.10 Amigo and The
Friends: A cartoon
series for children
6.30 The Cuckoo Sister
7.00 Animal Express: How
to deal with certain
types of horned
goats... A look at a
number of rare birds.
7.30 The New Adventures
of Beans Baxter:
Beans uncovers the
source of drugs han-
dled by the gang in
unexpected way.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Different World: The
students demand more
freedom and demon-
strate against certain



KTV2, 10.00 — Hooperman

administrative orders.
9.00 Horizon: "Smart
Weapons." New
developed weapons
with sophisticated
technology produced
by major powers.
10.00 Hooperman: "Love
Bytes." The mechanic
deceives Hooperman
who is compelled to
repair his car... in addi-
tion to many difficul-
ties caused by his
friend.
10.30 The Equalizer: "Splin-
ters." Intelligence men
develop a device for
clearing off memory...
"Mickey" is subjected
by a foreign
intelligence agents
who plan to plant a
new memory for her.
11.30 News in Brief
11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

Kala is eleven

KERALA Art Lovers Association (Kala) celebrates its 11th anniversary at Indian Embassy Auditorium on Oct 27 1989, with various cultural programmes.

Kala recalls with pride its inception in 1978 with a five-day public programme. Throughout these years Kala have conducted several literary and cultural programmes.

As part of the 11th anniversary celebrations, Kala conducts competition for children in drawing and painting, elocution in Malayalam. We propose to conduct these programmes as follows:

1. DRAWING AND PAINTING COMPETITION

Time: 8 am
Group A: 5 to 7 years
Group B: 8 to 11 years
Group C: Above 12 years

2. ELOCUTION COMPETITION

Time: 3 pm
Group A: 5th to 7th standard
Group B: 8th standard and above

All the competitors of painting are requested to register their names in Indian embassy premises before one hour of the contest. Drawing paper will be distributed freely by Kala and there will not be any admission fees. The subject for the Elocution Competition will be intimated a week before by contacting telephone numbers: 5610765, 3928127 and 4817615.

The evening will be flourished with various entertainments such as dances, dramas, followed by a meeting to commemorate the four cultural leaders as Cherukadu, Vayalar, Joseph Mundasseri and K. Ezhuthachen.

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.19 am
Zuhr	11.40
Asr	3.05 pm
Maghreb	5.40
Isha	6.57

● All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (2232) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

From ear to ear

AUSTRALIA Direct, a Distant Operator Direct (DOD) service has been inaugurated by Batelco General Manager, Brian Wood.

The new service allows customers in Bahrain to be in direct communication with Australian operators to request connection to telephone numbers in that country. Charges can either be billed to the called party or to the customer's calling credit card.

Commissioning Australia Direct, from a special DOD telephone at Batelco office on Government Road, Wood made the first call to the General Manager of the Overseas Telecommunications Corporation (OTC) in Sydney. "Batelco is pleased to start this service to Australia and we look forward for more co-operation with your corporation," Batelco general manager told his Australian counterpart. "More countries will be added to DOD service in the near future," Mr Wood revealed.

Similar services are now available to USA, UK, Hong Kong and Japan.

DOD phones are located conveniently at Batelco public sales offices and a number of expatriate clubs, hotels and exhibition centre and Bahrain International Airport.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Sat - Wed, 8 - 9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursdays and Fridays.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 4.00 to 7.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to 12 noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts, rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Watercolour Painting
LEARN watercolour painting with Patricia Mills, 6 week courses for Beginners and Advanced for details tel: 5618847.

Pottery and Crafts
Develop your child's creativity in pottery & crafts (3-12 yrs old). Also watercolour painting and jewellery making for adults. For details Tel: 5618847, 5317354, 9 am - 12 noon & 4 - 6.30 pm.

HOTELS

Kuwait Plaza Hotel
NEW menus every day at Al Dallah Coffee Shop with variety of Oriental, Arabic and Continental dishes to suit everybody's taste. Enjoy more than thirty different appetizers, mezzah, main course and dessert. A lavish buffet for KD2.995 only. Breakfast with a selection of more than 25 dishes to choose from and savour. Eat as much as you can with coffee and tea. It is the breakfast you like most for fills 995 only.

MARCOPOLO: The Italian
Restaurant in the heart of the city, features authentic Italian food with our resident Duo Stan and Alice who play your favourite songs and music.

SOCIAL

Navellim Youth Centre
NOV 16: A annual get-together nite with live music from "Stepping Stones and Top-Ranks" having lots more amusements, surprises awaiting at Le Mirage ballroom — Ramada Al Salam Hotel. Contact: Mr Alex — 2426334, Mr Marian — 2416945.

Filchek logo
THE Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait "Filchek" announces the start of the search for its club logo. The contest is open to all club members and

officers. The artwork must be about 8-10 cm. in height and width. Selection of the winning logo will be based on the following criteria: Creativity and Originality - 50%, Theme Execution - 30% and Visual Impact 20%. Entries must be submitted at "FILCHECK" headquarters or Kabayan Restaurant on or before 26 September 1989. The lucky winner will be announced during the opening of Filchek's first active chess tournament on 29 September 1989. The winner will receive valuable prizes courtesy of Sony Supplying Store. For more details contact Edward 2421868 or 2402405.

Colva Nite
OCT 19: Annual Colva Nite at New Ballroom of Ramada Al Salam Hotel. Top Ranks in attendance. For details contact Tel. 2413884/2434776/56291-41/4310913 after 5 pm.

Moods & Melody
"Moods & Melody" performs "Geet Maala" — a presentation of pop songs from Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu films — on 12th October 1989 at Indian Arts Circle auditorium, Funaites at 7.00 pm. For more details contact Tel: 4338579 and 2407418, after 4.00 pm.

Gala
Dec 8: Expatriates Club will hold a gala social for children and adults at the Tent, SAS Hotel. Fifty-five attractive hamper prizes and other gifts will be given away.

Spoken Arabic
The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training is starting to offer spoken Arabic classes for non-native speakers. The programme, starting in October 89, is for beginners and having intermediate knowledge in colloquial conversation. The registration will start on 16th September, 1989. Those who are interested please contact on telephone Nos. 2413050 Ext. 243, 269; 2455860 Ext 454, 455, 457; 2411383.

Konkani drama
Nov 2, 3: The new GOA presents M. Boyer's "Chintnam Zallim Sopnam" at the IAC (Funaites). Cast includes the Charlie Chapin of Goa 'Jacinto Vaz' along with Remy Colaco, Seby Coutinho, Betty Naz and others. Tickets now available. Contact Canary Video (Sharq) or Video Clock (near GPO).

Pakistan Arts Circle
A get-together party will be held at the residence of PAC's Sr. Vice-President Farooq Khan, on Thursday, the 21st Sept, 1989 at 8.00 pm. Families already registered are cordially invited. For further information, please contact tel. 5323693, 5717585, 4848643 or 4716258.

Kapilku Night
The Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilku) will hold

their Kapilku Night on Friday, September 29 in Holiday Inn Hotel at 5.00 pm. This singing contest is open to all Filipinos and the competition is divided into two categories, namely, Bagong Kampeon (regular singing contest) and Sing-Alike. The first three winners in each division will receive valuable prizes from the sponsors. Interested participants are requested to contact VP Sarah Macarimbang the chairperson at 4843447 and Rod Cerezo at 2433595, the co-ordinator.

Star Nite
DEC 21: Star Nite at Ramada Salam 'Al Dir'a' with Perfect Strangers music. Children's programme at 5 pm from 2-1/2 years to 12 years. Other programmes start with sumptuous buffet. Fabulous hamper prizes and variety social entertainment under 555 sponsorship. For reservations contact tel. (res) 5331940 or 2413706 pm only.

Magic show
NOV 9, 10: Expatriates Club will organise the first magic show in Kuwait. Internationally known Indian magician Marco will perform at the Granada Cinema. Watch out for further details.

Overnight picnic
THE IAC is planning an overnight picnic for members to Failaka on October 5th and 6th. Those interested may contact Mohan George at 3904817 after 6.30 pm for enrolment. Or Billi Varghese for details on 5613908 (R) or 2438011 ext. 274 (O).

An evening with SPOK
THE Samahaning Pilipinong Optometrist sa Kuwait (SPOK) will hold their annual get-together party at the Grand Jahra Ballroom of the Meridian Hotel on Friday, October 6, 1989 at 6 pm. The affair entitled "An Evening with SPOK — A Touch of Class" aims to encourage the Filipino community in Kuwait to get themselves acquainted with the Filipino Optometrists and become aware of the various services SPOK can render for their individual optical needs and visual problems. Proceeds of the affair will be donated to charitable institutions in the Philippines.

For particulars, please contact, Dr. Rose "chi-chi" Luna, Tel: 2415901/2419285 and Dr. Rosafu Austria, Tel: 2435712.

Fiesta Testra
OCT 20: A red letter day for stage play Afficionados. The Filipino Cultural Club (FCC), under the chairmanship of Buddy Pattang, proudly represents another unique innovation of theirs, this time, directed by Joey Laurente, the energetic "brains" behind the sensational SISA. Highlighting the intricate interesting life of its central character, Austrian composer, Wolfgang "Amadeus" Mozart. This two hour stage play will hold the

same vibrant, all spirited team of the legendary "Fiesta Filipina '89".

Featuring Tolis Matig-A, in his most dramatic role ever, see him play the magnificent figure of "Salieri". At the Al Jahra Ballroom of Le Meridian Hotel, watch the director/choreographer of "Fiesta '89" turn actor himself in "the saga of Amadeus" plus a whole cast of lovely and dashing characters that FCC has in store for you.

D'Assisi Association
OCTOBER 6: Ninth annual Thanksgiving mass will be held at the Holy Family Cathedral at 8 am followed by a get-together after mass. All D'Assisi ex-students along with their families and friends are invited. For more details contact: 2444379 or 2469811.

Kuwait Kannada Koota
NOV 3: As part of the Nehru Centenary and Karnataka Rajyotsava Day celebrations, the Koota has organised a variety entertainment programme followed by dinner at the Sharq Co-op Auditorium. For entry passes contact tel. nos. 5621922/5650264/5745483/3714089.

Barfoot in the Park
DUE to unforeseen circumstances, one male role in the Kuwait Players production of "Barfoot in the Park" needs to be filled. If anyone is interested in taking over the role, please ring the Director Ken Winston on 5740256/7 or 5625316.

Kuwait Singers
KUWAIT Singers has just started rehearsals for their seasonal concert. Rehearsals are on Saturdays and Mondays at 7.30 pm at the Gulf English School, Salwa. If you enjoy singing come along and join us. For further information tel. 5384873.

The British Council
STORY-TELLING sessions: At the British Council library on Thursday September 28, at 10.30. Children of all nationalities of ages 3-7 are invited. Come and enjoy the magic books with a professional storyteller.

No charge for admission but parents are advised to reserve a place for their children. We look forward to seeing you.

Sheba Sound
SHEBA Sound, a classical quartet of oboes, bassoon and harpsichord, will perform at the Mousetrap Theatre on Oct 14, at 8.00 pm — price KD4; and at Messilah Beach Hotel on Oct 15, where the performance will include a sit-down dinner for KD9, inclusive.

Please ring 5382099 for reservation and look out for posters in Tanagra boutiques who are sponsoring the visit.

German speakers
AFTER the summer holidays, the regular coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will start again on Sunday, Oct 1, at 10 am, at the

Kuwait International Hotel. Old Failaka Room. New-comers are particularly welcome.

SPORTS

Kuwait International
Fit for Life: September brings a variety of sports classes and activities at the Kuwait International Hotel. Tennis coaching from October. Classes for ladies, juniors and seniors by Frank Novak — an experienced Canadian coach and tennis player. Enrollment on-going. Also fun tennis sessions for the family. Swimming classes from 17th September. Limited space available. Ballet classes will begin from 18th September. Coaching by Russian trained teacher. Enrollment on-going. Other classes are: Ladies' Keep Fit Classes, Men's Keep Fit Classes, Yoga, Judo, Karate and Taekwando. For details contact: Paul or Vivienne at 2530000 or 2533000.

At the MBH

ASA swimming classes for children/adults, beginners, intermediate. Classes start Sept 23, 1989. For registration and details please contact Messilah Beach Hotel on 5624111 ext. 739 or 751.

Windsurfing classic: Messilah Beach Hotel is organising a windsurfing classic on Oct 6, 1989. Open to all men and women sailors in Kuwait. Closing date for entries is 1.10.89. For more details contact Ken Balman on 5624111 ext 739/751.

Tennis classes: Messilah Beach Hotel Tennis classes will be resuming beginning of Oct 89 for adults and children, to reserve a place phone 5624111 ext. 739/751.

Ballet classes: Messilah Beach Hotel Ballet classes for girls will be resuming late Sept 89, to reserve a place 5624111 ext. 739/751.

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BALLET classes: Messilah Beach Hotel ballet classes for girls will be resuming late Sept 89, to reserve a place phone 5624111 ext. 739/751.



Inauguration of the opening ceremony of Narmada Theatre's Malayalam social play: A love Mantra from Ujjain.

A love mantra from Ujjain

A MEETING of Narmada Theatres, newly formed cultural organisation in Kuwait, which stands for the slogan "art for art's sake," was held at the residence of chairman C.A. John in Hawalli. George Tharakan, assistant manager, Air-India, inaugurated the opening ceremony of their first social play entitled "A Love Mantra from Ujjain," by lighting the traditional lamp and handing-over handwritten copy of the play to the well-known artist Shirley John. C.A. John welcomed the distinguished guests and well-wishers.

Speakers on the occasion, Jayan Pattathu and

Shirley John emphasised that Narmada Theatres aims at the upbringing of hitherto unknown artists to the forefront of cultural activities in Kuwait.

A number of eminent personalities from different walks of life attended the function which was held in a homely and cordial atmosphere. Shaji Thomas was the programme co-ordinator.

Script by Varghese Koratty, lyrics by Rajendra Babu, co-ordinated by Shirley John and directed by Jayan Pattathu, the play will go on to the stage of Indian Arts Circle during the first half of May 1990.



More celebrations:

Nadar Sangam celebrated Nehru's centenary last week. The function had a variety entertainments including little boy's dancing, folk dancing and patriotic songs. The picture shows Kumari Anitha John and Poshpa Peter dancing.

Happy Birthdays



Erandi Nanayakkara celebrates her 2nd birthday on September 27th. Happy birthday from Ammi, Thatchi, mama, uncle, nana and god-parents.
Erandi likes TV.



Erica Pinto celebrates her 1st birthday on September 27th. Happy birthday from parents, grandparents, relatives and friends.
Erica likes playing with cuddly toys.



Vincent Rodrigues celebrates his 10th birthday on September 27th. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.
Vincent goes to the Indian School in Mangaf.



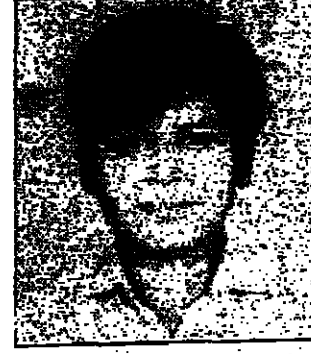
Shehela Hossain celebrates her 3rd birthday on September 26th. Happy birthday from parents and sister Dolamoni.
Shehela likes watching cartoons.



Ahmed Siddiqui celebrates his 6th birthday on September 14th. Belated greetings from parents, friends and family.
Ahmed goes to the Carmel School.



Gauri Gupta celebrated her 10th birthday on September 24th. Belated greetings from parents, friends and family.
Gauri goes to the Indian School and likes music, dancing and playing.



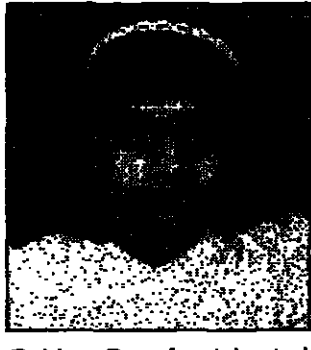
Mayank Agarwal celebrates his 12th birthday on September 27th. Happy birthday from parents, Mukul Rashni, family and friends.
Mayank goes to an Indian School in Gwalior.



Shobhith celebrates her 1st birthday on September 27th. Wishing you many, many happy returns of the day and blessings from happiness and good health are papa, mama and uncle.



Guruka Singh Oberoi celebrates his 11th birthday on September 27th. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.
Guruka goes to the Indian School.



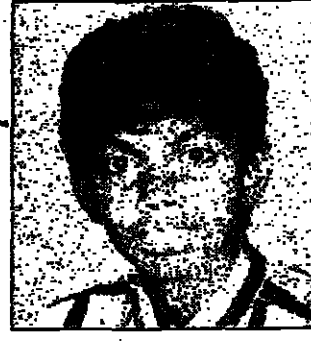
Ruhina Raof celebrated her 12th birthday on September 21st. Belated greetings from parents, friends and family.
Ruhina goes to the Carmel School and likes reading and painting.



A.V. Anoop Shanker celebrates his birthday on September 26. Happy birthdays from parents, family and friends.
A goes to the New Indian School and likes cycling, cartoons and swimming.



Vatsal Doshi celebrates his 9th birthday today, September 26th. Happy birthday from parents and brother Mehul.
Vatsal, of the Indian School, likes television and football.



Kenneth Sam K. celebrated his 15th birthday on September 24th. Belated greetings from parents, friends and family.
Kenneth goes to the Mangaf Indian School.



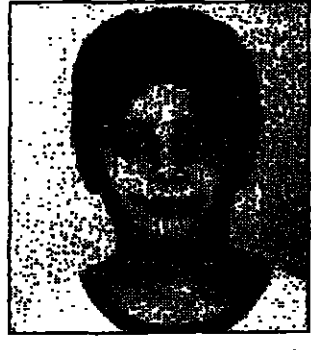
Armenderpal Singh Luthra celebrates his 7th birthday today, September 26th. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.
Armenderpal goes to the New Indian School.



Pradeep Peter celebrated his birthday on September 18. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.
Pradeep goes to the New Indian School.



Amy Mascarenhas celebrated her birthday on September 25. Belated greetings from family, parents and friends.
Amy goes to the Kuwait Indian School and likes swimming and dancing.



Aasif Hamid celebrated his 10th birthday on September 18. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.
Aasif goes to the Indian School and likes singing, football and monoacting.



Honeyish Sebastian celebrated his birthday on September 24. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.
Honeyish goes to the Indian School, Fahaheel and likes drawing.



Yasmin Allana recently celebrated her birthday with her brother Amin (shown above) and her friends. Greetings and best wishes from parents and family.

Young actor



Vivek Madhu played the role of 'Vamana' in a Tableau presented at the Indian Art Circle on the occasion of Onam celebrations last week.

Amazing facts

A temperature of minus 90.4 Fahrenheit has been recorded in Oymyakon, a town in eastern Siberia.

The Royal Poinciana, a tropical tree, produces its flowers before it bears leaves.

During the Indian Mutiny the British wrote secret messages in a mixture of lemon juice and milk.

Dogs sweat through their paws.

The bellringer of Mazatlan Cathedral, Mexico, has never left the bell tower since he started work there 16 years ago.

In the middle ages, cooked peacock was a great delicacy.

In the Tahiti Botanical Gardens, there is a bamboo plant standing 140 feet high.

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ALMUNA
PUBLIC
RELATIONS

ARAB TIMES **1** GENERAL ELECTRIC

150 reported dead in Danube boat tragedy **Amir to Africa, France**

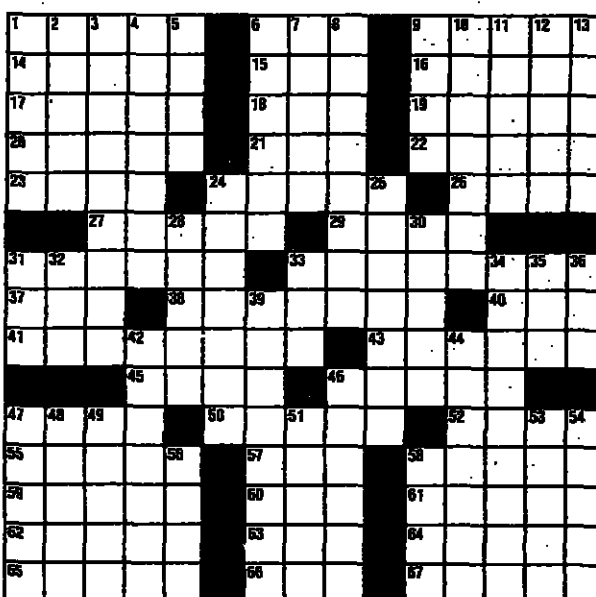
Thousands vote in freedom flood
Joy, disbelief as German refugees swarm West

Desai fights **Rajiv, Sonia fly in** **Mother Teresa fine**

Fires trap Lebanese
Iraq pushes emergency summit

Cory to Marcos: Many more - over th

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Shy
 - Haul
 - Church areas
 - Native of Tehran
 - "Surprise!"
 - Part of Moslem law
 - By itself
 - Grappling surface
 - Dostoyevski title, with "The"
 - Cuts
 - Part of to be
 - Confuse
 - Bigfoot of Asia
 - Rouser
 - Plum role
 - Furious
 - Reveal
 - Building material
 - Took a rest
 - Tar's yes
 - Reno resident
 - Silkworm
 - Held in contempt
 - Shove off
 - Latvian
 - Foundation
 - Aleutian Island
 - Antitoxin
 - "Moonstruck" actress
 - Ballet birds
 - Aunt or Uncle: Abbr.
 - Shoulder warmer
 - Ink, in Berlin
 - Completely
 - Angler's supply
 - Mystery writer
 - Howard
 - Signifying a maiden name
 - Build
 - Raises
- DOWN**
- Word with coffee or tea
 - Mae and Adam
 - Blotto
 - Dancing Castle
 - Canadian provinces, with "The"
 - Uplift
 - Irae
 - Cantina snack
 - "Pal Joey" author
 - Modern sleeping surface
 - One of seven
 - Skip these on a rainy day
 - Styly
 - disparaging
 - "Gay"
 - historic plane
 - Filled to repletion
 - Swears
 - Road cover
 - Allen's "Hall"
 - Lacoste and Auberjonois
 - Dastard
 - Private
 - Brit. dance org.
 - Sites along the Atlantic
 - Go wrong
 - Dot in a radio code
 - Old-timers
 - Gardener, at times
 - Visualize
 - Projectile
 - Michaelmas
 - Cord
 - Rod's mother
 - U.S. Grant's counterpart
 - Choose
 - Takes it easy
 - Choices: Abbr.
 - Racing's Seattle

ANSWER TO
PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ETONS ALPS DCS
DELIA FOOT GOAL
WALLFLOWER OONA
SALAAMS IGOROT
RMS PAL KEY
BOCCIE CREASE
ISLA SHOE ICES
PHOTO TELEGRAPHY
ASTA LANA LEAD
EYRIES SWARMS
LET ERN SPA
IMPEDE STARRED
SELL FLOORBOARD
ZEAL USAR LITTER
TRY LURE ELSIE

GOVEN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: What action do you take?

hold:
♠ QJ1083 ♥ AK54 ♦ A106 ♣ K
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ QJ1083 ♥ AK54 ♦ A106 ♣ K
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ QJ1083 ♥ AK54 ♦ A106 ♣ K
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass 3 ♥ Pass
3 NT Pass ?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ 9872 ♥ A6 ♦ 10652 ♣ 742
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What action do you take?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ AJ85 ♥ 83 ♦ J98 ♣ AJ54
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♥ 2 ♦ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ Q87 ♥ 73 ♦ AJ98 ♣ AJ1063
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ 2 ♦ ?
What action do you take?



"I take it you're the haemorrhoid case?"



"What's up? Nothing on the telly?"

Teddy bears

By Julie Hodgson

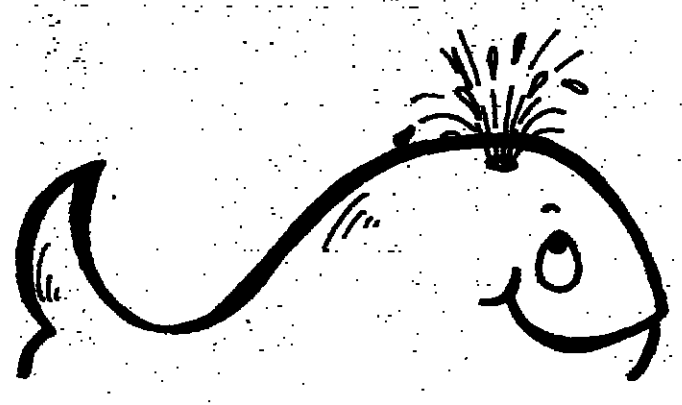
Teddy bears, teddy bears, all fluffy and white, pink eyes or blue eyes, all shiny bright.

Staring at the window, Of that big toy store. Wishing I were taller, so that I could see more.

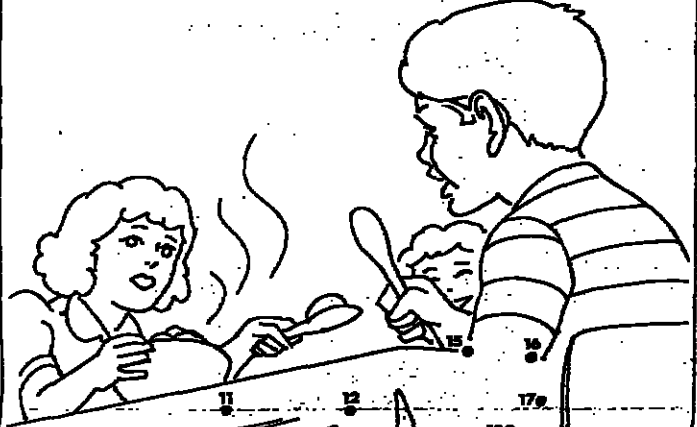
When I am a big girl, I shall surely buy, the biggest, whitest teddy bear, that will catch my eye.



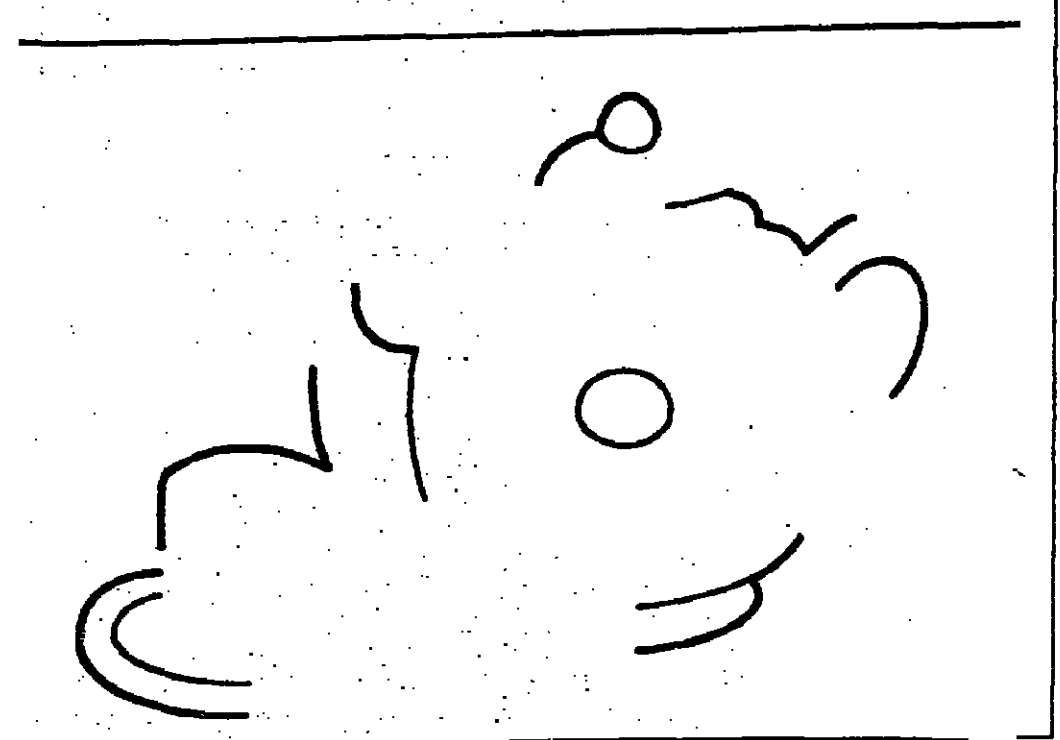
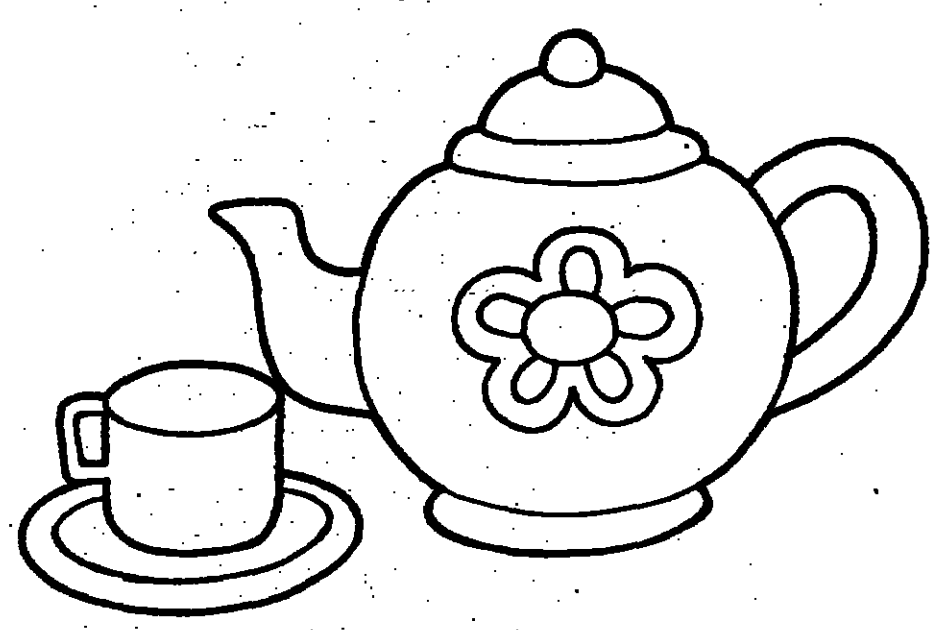
Draw water under the whale.



Dot-to-dot



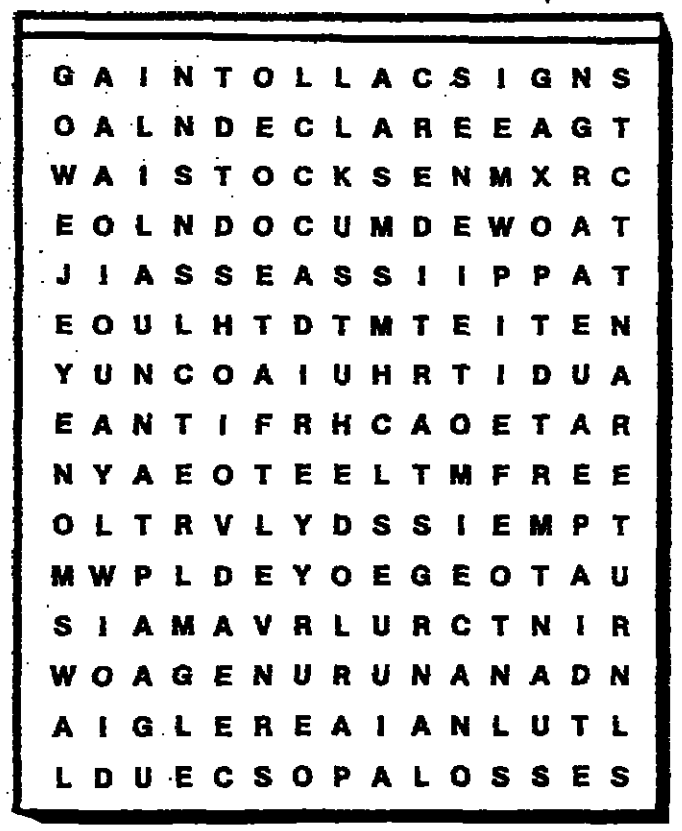
Copy and colour



Word search

TAX TIME

ALLOT	FEDERAL	MAIL	REVENUE
ANNUAL	FIGURES	MONEY	RULES
AUDIT	FORMS	NAME	SHARE
CAPITAL	GAINS	OWE	SIGN
CHECK	INCOME	PAID	STATE
CITY	ITEM	PENALTY	STOCKS
CLAIM	JOINT	PROFIT	TAXES
CREDIT	LAWS	RATE	TOTAL
DECLARE	LEVY	REPORT	WAGES
DEDUCTION	LOSSES	RETURN	WITHHELD



First and last

Frank Wooton was England's leading jockey from 1909 to 1912. He won his first race when he was only nine years old.

Jeans are called jeans because they were first made in the city of Genoa in Italy. The French name for that city is Genes.

The latest method the American Navy have used for recovering torpedoes which have been lost in deep water is by sending trained whales to retrieve them.

Our ambitions



Nasrat



Taniya



Sad



Salmiya

AMBITION is having a fantasy of being something in someone's life. I personally have spoken to many students, some my age, some older and some younger. I have concluded that everyone has a fantasy of his own which changes as he grows older and finds things more interesting and fascinating. My friends have helped me write about this topic by sharing their statements about their practical study life.

Salmiya Sadeq, a student from the Indian School of Kuwait, states that she would like to be a 'computer scientist' or a programmer. This topic is indeed very interesting and important. On the other hand it is very tough. Infact, she is so much involved in accomplishing her goal that she has no time for guys! But whenever she finds a spare moment, she reads novels, adventure and romance books. Her favourite author is Dennis Robbins. Salmiya has studied in the Pakistan International School and once she was also a Carmelite. Her favourite subjects are Mathematics & Physics in which she usually scores above 90 per cent. It's important you know there's a lot of hard work behind it. Salmiya has done very well in her boards this year and is not far from reaching her destination.

Sumaya a sixteen-year-old student from the Kuwait English School who has done extraordinarily wonderful in her 'O' levels this year wants to be an 'architect engineer' as well as an astronaut and as a child she even dreamt of going to Mars. Her beloved subject is Chemistry but she hates the word Physics. Sumaya loves to travel alone & watch the blue sky which is her favourite colour. On asking her how she did so well in her examination Sumaya says, "My mother was always there for encouragement. Besides, my school teachers were always ready to help." She has quiet some time to spare for guys, but she rather sit home and prepare for her 'A' levels.

Nasrat Chowdhary, an ex-Carmelite and an eighth grader, would like to be a 'doctor' when she grows up. She has studied in Iraq, Indian School, Carmel School & would like to complete her higher education in the States. She once fantasized being a policewoman as she would be fascinated by the detective movies she would often watch. Nasrat wishes to build an Islamic Society wherever 'God' takes her. She loves solving sums & reading books but she hates studying languages. Nasrat has earned many gold medals by her hard work in studies which resulted in an outstanding report. At times, I wonder how she does so well 'cause being the eldest daughter she has a lot of household activities. Besides, she also has a younger brother who pesters her all the time. But Nasrat states that it is the encouragement of her warm and loving family that helps her in all walks of her life.

Two young students namely Sad and Tania study in the second and nursery respectively. They regard study as a very funny game and have not yet decided what to be in their lives. Says Taniya, "I want to be a 'maid servant'." and says Sad, "I want to be a rickshaw puller." But, asks his mother, "where will you get the money to live?" and they say, "we will rob banks". Well, that's not a bad idea, is it?

I myself, a thirteen-year-old girl, have a dream of being a 'journalist'. But just gathering all these information has taken me ages and it makes me wonder how the others will become doctors and engineers & programmers and scientists & Oh? it seems so difficult. But as the old saying goes, "Where there is a will, there is a way", and the way to our light is hardwork.

Amina Reza,
Indian School,
Salmiya,
Kuwait.



Amina

Dear Junior readers,
When you wake up in the morning, some of you do not feel like eating or drinking anything. You are too sleepy and force yourselves to get dressed ... who needs food then?

Your mother, during your dressing time, would probably be getting a lovely appetising breakfast ready. You have one look at it and your stomach grumbles but there is no time to eat. Mummy always has a good solution and packs it up in a plastic bag and tells you to eat it at school. Initially you do not mind, you are hungry anyway.

When break comes, you rush out to play with your friends. You jump, run and skip until the bell goes. Then you remember your lonely little breakfast bag laying in your satchel.

The second break comes and the same thing happens, then the third break comes and your breakfast is untouched.

When you get home, mummy is very disappointed. You wonder why. ... You see breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It gives you the energy you need to run, play and even think. Sometimes it helps keep you awake too!

So before you rush out into the schoolyard tomorrow, eat the delicious food awaiting in your bag and relax for a few moments first.

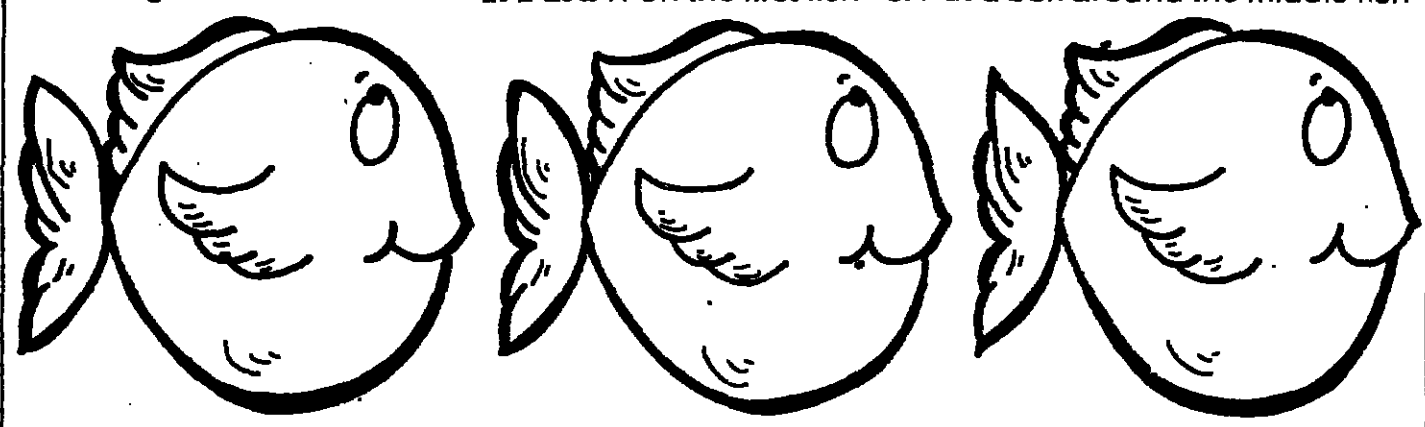
In the long run, it will be much more fun!

Manal

Fishy-fish talk

Follow these steps:

1. Put a ★ on the first fish
2. Colour the last fish blue
3. Put a box around the middle fish



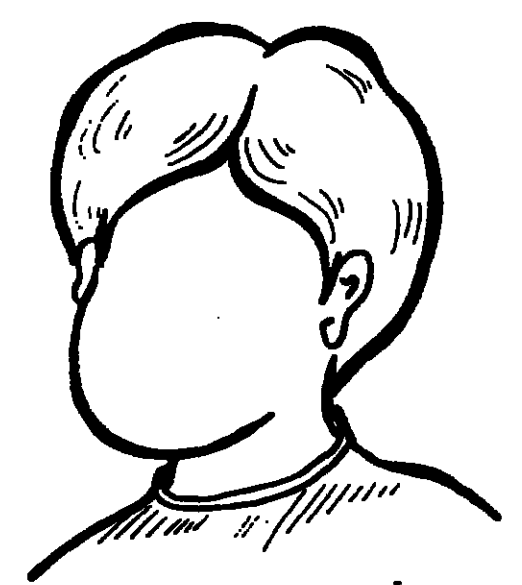
Colouring time



Faces

Have you ever stood in front of the mirror and pulled funny faces? Why don't you draw a funny face on this fellow and then colour him in....

a funny face.



Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
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حیدر نے ایشیٹ پر مصداق کیا

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ہنگو نامہ الخلیل

Cubs beat Pirates for 4th straight victory

NEW YORK, Sept. 25. (AP) — Doa Zimmer isn't counting on anything.

"We have to keep winning and not worry about what the Cardinals do," the Cubs manager said. "This thing isn't over yet. You have to realize how fast things can change in this game. We could have lost all three to the Pirates. Then where would we be?"

Dwight Smith drove in two runs and Ryne Sandberg had two hits as the Cubs beat Pittsburgh 4-2 yesterday for their fourth straight victory. Chicago leads St. Louis by four games with six remaining and its magic number is three for its second Division title in six seasons.

Steve Wilson, 6-4, won his third decision against Pittsburgh this year, allowing three hits in five innings. Jeff Pico got two outs for his first save this season and the second of his career.

Cardinals 2, Phillies 1
Chuck McElroy's bases-loaded walk to Tony Pena forced in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning. St. Louis remained four games behind Chicago.

With the score tied 1-1, Terry Pendleton singled with two outs in the eighth off Jeff Parrett, 12-6. Parrett walked Jose Oquendo and Milt Thompson, and McElroy walked Pena on a 3-2 pitch.

Ted Power, 7-7, got the victory, relieving Ken Dayley with two on and two outs in the eighth. John Costello pitched the ninth for his third save.

Expos 6, Mets 5

Dave Martinez' two-run single off Julio Machado, 0-1, capped a five-run ninth-inning rally and pushed the Mets to the brink of elimination.

New York trails first-place Chicago by 6 1/2 games with seven games remaining. The Mets would have to win every game and the Cubs would have to lose every game in order for New York to tie.

Giants 10, Astros 2

Kevin Mitchell hit his 47th homer, drove in his 125th run and scored his 100th run as San Francisco eliminated Houston from the National League West race.

The Giants lead San Diego by five games with six games remaining. Any combination of San Francisco victories and Padres losses totaling two would give the Giants the title.

Robby Thompson hit a three-run homer and Mike Lacoss, 9-10, scattered eight hits and struck out four in his first complete game since he shut out St. Louis on July 8, 1988.

Results	
American League	
New York	2 Baltimore 0
Milwaukee	8 Toronto 3
Oakland	9 Minnesota 3
Kansas City	4 Seattle 1
Cleveland	5 California 4
Boston	4 Detroit 2
Texas	5 Chicago 4
National League	
Chicago	10 Pittsburgh 2
San Francisco	10 Houston 2
Montreal	6 New York 5
Atlanta	6 Cincinnati 1
St. Louis	2 Philadelphia 1
San Diego	1 Los Angeles 0

Kelly takes Bills to win over Oilers

NEW YORK, Sept. 25. (AP) — Jim Kelly's fifth touchdown pass gave Buffalo Bills a 47-41 overtime victory Houston yesterday in a game of big plays that saw Oilers kicker Tony Zendejas go from hero to villain in less than 10 minutes.

Kelly already had thrown touchdown passes of 6, 63, 78 and 26 yards before his 28-yarder to Andre Reed with 6:18 left in overtime ended this exhausting exercise in give-and-take. Reed also caught the 78-yarder.

Zendejas kicked a 52-yarder, his longest of the season, with three seconds to play, forcing the overtime. But he later missed a 37-yard kick, giving Kelley and the visiting Bills possession for their winning drive.

In the rest of the NFL, it was San Francisco 49, Philadelphia 28, Denver 31, Los Angeles Raiders 21, Indianapolis 13, Atlanta 9, Chicago 47, Detroit 27, Pittsburgh 27, Minnesota 14, Tampa Bay 20, New Orleans 10, New York Giants 28, Phoenix 7, Seattle 24, New England 3, Washington 30, Dallas 7, San Diego 21, Kansas City 6, New York Jets 40, Miami 33, and Los Angeles Rams 41, Green Bay 38, 49ers 38, Eagles 28.

Joe Montana, sacked eight times in the first 3 1/2 quarters, threw four touchdown passes in the final quarters as the 49ers overcame an 11-point deficit in the last eight minutes to beat Philadelphia.

Broncos 31, Raiders 21

John Elway threw two touchdown passes to Mark Jackson and scrambled 29 yards for another

John scores only goal of match

GCA edge Salcete for title

GOA Cultural Association (GCA) beat Salcete 1-0 in the final of the 6th Ida Memorial Football Tournament, sponsored by Agnelo Fernandes and organised by the Goa Cultural Association, to capture the crown at the Sour grounds earlier this week.

The only goal of the match caught both the Salcete squad and even the spectators by surprise as it came only 25 seconds into the first half. Even some of the spectators who arrived a few minutes late missed the only score of the match.

The goal was scored by John, who caught both the rival defenders and the goalkeeper unaware, as none of them had been expecting an attack at the citadel so early in the game.

Although no more goals were scored during the rest of the match, the game was very interesting with both the sides getting equal opportunities to score but missing their mark on all occasions.

In the 30th minute of the first half, GCA's Alex got an excellent chance to increase the gap between the two teams when he dodged past two Salcete defenders and had the goalkeeper at his mercy when he



John (2nd left) scores the winning goal.

shot wide.

In the second half, the teams increased the pace of the game and displayed their football skills well, to the applause of one of the biggest Friday crowds gathered at the Sour grounds.

Salcete had a lot of possession of the ball in this half and tried desperately for an equaliser but the strong GCA defence and also some brilliant goalkeeping by Albert saw GCA hold on for victory until the final whistle.

After the match, Celestino Vaz — general secretary of the Goa Cultural Association —

thanked the chief guests Mr and Mrs Ali Noor, the organisers and all the participants for making this event a success.

Ali Noor, in a brief speech, congratulated the champions on their success and also praised the organisers for the excellent arrangements made by them to ensure the success of the event.

The prizes were given to the winners and losers after the speeches, by Mrs Ali Noor. Al Othman Sports Club were awarded the Best Disciplined Team trophy while Cipriano took the Man of the Match award.



An action shot of the match.



The Salcete captain gets the runners-up prize.



The GCA captain collects the champion's trophy.



Both the teams with the organisers and Mr and Mrs Ali Noor (centre). (Photos by Haitham Murshad)

Mansell saw no flags: spokesman

ESTORIL, Portugal, Sept. 25. (Reuters) — Briton Nigel Mansell did not see the black flags waved at him to signify his disqualification from yesterday's Portuguese Grand Prix in which he collided with Ayrton Senna, his personal spokesman said.

Mansell's spokesman Mike Francis said: "Nigel told me he would swear on the Holy Bible that he did not see any of them at all. He was right behind Senna and chasing him as hard as he could. He knew nothing about them."

Mansell, who stormed out of the circuit without making any public comment, was shown the black flag for reversing during a pit-stop after 39 laps of a sensational race finally won by his Ferrari team-mate Gerhard Berger of Austria.

The flag was waved three times after the 45th, 46th and 47th laps, but Mansell took no notice. On the 48th lap, after overtaking the Brazilian world champion, he was told to stop.

Both cars spun off badly damaged and came to a halt on the sand traps. Neither driver was hurt but Senna's world title hopes were effectively ended and the incident ignited a bitter war of words between the McLaren and Ferrari teams.

It was not the first time there have been bitter

exchanges between the two drivers either following collisions on the track.

Twice Mansell has been eliminated after first corner brushes with Senna and two years ago he had to be restrained by mechanics when he stormed into the Brazilian's pit at the Belgian Grand Prix after a collision on the first lap had put them both out of the race.

Yesterday, Mansell was called before the race stewards and the president of the International Motor Sports Federation (Fisa) Jean-Marie Balestre announced that he had been fined \$50,000 and banned for one race.

The announcement did not specify which race Mansell would miss and this, together with an almost inevitable appeal from Ferrari, suggested that the British driver would be free to take part in next weekend's Spanish Grand Prix at Jerez.

That race is likely to see the drivers' championship decided. Frenchman Alain Prost, with 75 points, currently leads his McLaren team-mate Senna, who has 51.

To stop Prost clinching the title, Senna must collect two wins and a second in the three remaining races of the season without the Frenchman scoring any further points.

As the Ferrari and McLaren management waged their war of words last night, it was clear neither team knew how to react to the result.

Berger, who joins McLaren next year, was a subdued victor overshadowed by the Mansell-Senna controversy and is no longer regarded as a hero by the Ferrari fans.

Prost, virtually assured of his third world title in McLaren, could also barely raise a smile and refused to attend the routine post-race press conference. He was fined \$10,000 by the race stewards because of that.

Prost joins Ferrari next year and will therefore take the champions' number one with him to Maranello if he clinches the title — a fact which had aggravated the already strained relations between McLaren and Ferrari before yesterday's race.

Senna said he could not believe what had happened. Mansell, who looked furious, left in a hurry with Ferrari team manager Cesare Fiorio busy attempting to defend him and Balestre accusing him of appearing to be both poor-sighted and deaf.

Balestre's accusations arose from Mansell's failure to take notice of the flags or pit-boards waved at him or the instructions from his team on the pit-to-car radio.

Brothers sail past Prince

BROTHERS Sporting last year's runners-up in the Gulf Cricket League, beat last year's champions Prince Cricket Club by 91 runs at the EPI ground on Friday.

Brothers won the toss and elected to make first use of the wicket, scoring 151 runs in their 30 allotted overs. Asghar was the top scorer with 36 runs. He was given some good support by Sadek who hit 28. Manoj Patel remained unbeaten on 25 while Yogesh hit 24.

In reply, Prince were all out for only 60 runs. Kranti Patel bowled well to take four wickets for only 10 runs. Manoj Patel took two for 13 and Montu and Yogesh one wicket each.

Only Mujahid and Shafiq Ahmed reached the double figures from Prince.

Tafa triumphs

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 25. (AP) — Tesfaye Tafa of Ethiopia won yesterday's Mexico City marathon with a record-setting time of 2:17.55, while Flora Moreno of Mexico won the women's division at 2:44.34.

Over 18,000 men and 1,000 women started the 26-mile, 385-yard (42-kilometres, 195-metre) race, following blue lines painted through the streets of Mexico City.

The top scorers for Bombay Youth were Ashok, John and Manoj who hit 35, 23 and 21 runs respectively.

In reply, ACC fought hard and tried to get on top of the Bombay Youth bowling. They nearly succeeded in their attempt and would have won the match had the bowlers not kept to their line and length. The Bombay Youth fielders also fiddled well and saw their team win by only two runs as ACC managed to score 167.

In the matches on this Friday, Bombay Youth face Skylark and Salmiya take on Hilti.

Nalaka helps Colts triumph

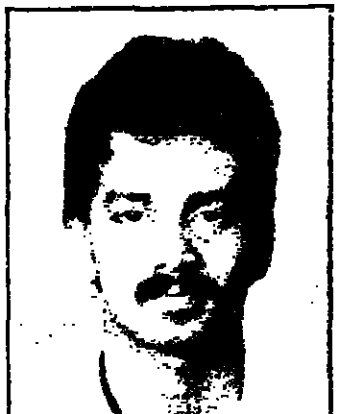
A SUPERB half-century by opener Nalaka Perera and a middle-order partnership for the seventh wicket between Solomonsz and D'Neise worth 40 runs, put Lanka Colts-Trico — firmly on course for victory in the GCL league match against Rangers CC at the EPI grounds on Friday.

Nalaka's stylish innings was without doubt the best performance of the day. He scored 72 including 5 well-timed hits to the ropes in a total of 164 for 6 in 25 overs.

The unbroken 7th wicket stand between Ralph and Solomonsz, who scored 27 not out and 13 not out respectively, was a further boost to the huge Colts' total. Chris, Hiran and Roville too put in noteworthy scores of 10, 17 and 10 respectively. Bashir with 2 wickets, Asghar and Sajid with 1 wicket each shared the bowling honours for Rangers.

In reply, Rangers started disastrously losing skipper Sajid in the very first over to a superb catch held by Nalaka off Solomonsz. From this point onwards, the Colts' bats kept the pressure on and held the Rangers batsmen at bay.

Except for Amjad, who scored 15, none of the other batsmen



Nalaka Perera

could come to terms with the Colts' attack and Rangers were eventually skilted out for a mere 43 runs in just 13 overs.

Senaka Perera, coming to bowl at first change, bowled an intelligent and devastating spell to capture 3 wickets for six runs in only 2.3 overs. Opener Solomonsz too bowled an immaculate spell of 6 overs and accounted for 3 wickets giving away 19 runs. Nalaka and Lal Premasiri also did well with the ball and took a scalp each.

Nalaka Perera was adjudged the 'Man of the Match' for his all-round performance.

Bittu takes Unity past Morning

UNITY CRICKET Club were given a flying start to their 1989/90 season when they scored a victory over Morning Star in their first match of the Gulf Bank Trophy-KOC Thursday League.

Unity won the toss and opted to make first use of the wicket, scoring 158 runs for the loss of four wickets in the allotted overs.

Denzil, who opened the innings with Babar, hit two fours in his 23 to put his team on a strong footing but the highlight of the Unity innings was the unbroken 69-run partnership between Bittu Singh and Chris for the fourth wicket.

Bittu Singh was in excellent form and hit seven fours in his unbeaten 64 while Chris stood firm at the other end with an unbeaten 24, coming with the help of a six and two fours.

The other batsmen to make some contribution to the Unity total were Sikander with 18 and Merwin with 14.

The main wicket-takers for Morning Star were Amjad who captured two scalps for 21 and Sohail and Shabier who got one wicket each.

Deccan and Bombay win

DECCAN BLUE and Bombay Youth beat Hilti Cricket Club and ACC respectively in the Haji Sami Khan Memorial Cricket Tournament matches at the Salmiya Cricket ground on Friday.

In the first match, Deccan Blue put Hilti in to bat after winning the toss and skilted his opponents out for only 138 runs in 24.2 overs. The main contributions came from Abuzar 27, Fazal 23, Shabbir 22 and Fakhrudin 19.

The main wicket-takers for Deccan Blue were Imtiaz with two wickets for 18, Ejaz two for 28, Aklesh two for 28 and Javid Kaloo and Rajinder with one wicket each.

In reply Deccan Blue found the going easy against the Hilti bowlers and completed the runs required for victory in 19.2 overs. Javid Kaloo was the top scorer with 39 while Rao hit 38 and Aklesh 34.

In the second match, Bombay Youth won the toss and decided to make first use of the wicket and scored 169 runs for the loss of nine wickets in their 30 allotted overs.

The top scorers for Bombay Youth were Ashok, John and Manoj who hit 35, 23 and 21 runs respectively.

In reply, ACC fought hard and tried to get on top of the Bombay Youth bowling. They nearly succeeded in their attempt and would have won the match had the bowlers not kept to their line and length. The Bombay Youth fielders also fiddled well and saw their team win by only two runs as ACC managed to score 167.

In the matches on this Friday, Bombay Youth face Skylark and Salmiya take on Hilti.

Inter-Kay tournament starts



The players taking part in the tennis tournament.

THE first Inter-Kay Tennis Tournament of Kay & Associates, Inc., started earlier this month at the Holiday Inn Hotel. Both advanced and beginner players are participating in this tournament. Games are played every Wednesday and Thursday from 6 to 10 pm and will go on until Oct 4.

The major sponsors are Hatid Ligaya Abuhoush Freight, Al-Rashed Freight, Mabuhay Restaurant, Kuwait Tourism & Shipping Corporation/Husain Makki Al Juma and Holiday Inn Hotel.

Prizes at stake include championship trophies, plane ticket Kuwait-Dubai-Kuwait, gift certificates and other prizes. After 2 days of play, 3 teams posted 2 wins namely, Benjie Aldocaa/Joy Valerio, Butch Hoffman/Butch Evangelista & Surley Lago/Jun Concepcion. Dr Clem Hall/Ed Samia and Ernie Lagman/William Reyes had one win apiece. The remaining tandems are Albert Orozco/Rod Mendoza, Norbie Manabat/Tom Donnelly and Danny Felix/Kevin Stevenson.



Kelly: threw five touchdown passes in Bills victory over Oilers

score, helping build a 28-0 half-time lead that Denver made stand up over the Raiders.

Colts 13, Falcons 9

Dean Biasucci kicked two field goals, and Jack Trudeau ran for one touchdown as a second-string backfield rallied the ailing Indianapolis Colts over Atlanta. Bears 47, Lions 27

The Bears remained unbeaten,

NFL after two blowout losses, shut out Minnesota in the second half.

Bucs 20, Saints 10

Vinny Testaverde passed for 227 yards, and Tampa Bay intercepted New Orleans' hanged-up quarterbacks twice. Testaverde threw an 11-yard pass to Ron Hall in the second period, and Lars scored on a 5-yard run that broke a 10-10 tie midway through the third quarter.

Giants 35, Cardinals 7

Terry Kinard returned an interception 58 yards for a touchdown, and the Giants' maligned defence forced six first-half turnovers as New York routed Phoenix for its best start since 1968.

Seahawks 24, Patriots 3

Dave Krieg attacked New England's injury-weakened secondary with three touchdown passes in the last 8:15 of the first half, leading the Seahawks to their first victory.

Redskins 30, Cowboys 7

Earnest Byner scored a touchdown on his first carry for the Redskins as Washington spoiled Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson's regular-season home debut.

Washington, playing the second half without Gerald Riggs, the NFL's leading rusher, is 1-2. The Cowboys dropped to 0-3, their worst start since 1963.

Chargers 21, Chiefs 6

Rod Bernstein caught a touchdown pass and ran 32 yards for another score, and the Chargers (1-2) intercepted Steve Deberg five times in their victory over Kansas City (1-2). The victory was the first for Dan Henning as

Chargers coach and for Jim McMahon as San Diego's starting quarterback.

Jets 40, Dolphins 33

Ken O'Brien threw three scoring passes and directed the visiting New York Jets to touchdowns on all four of their second-half possessions as they rallied over Miami. O'Brien hit Roger Vick from 11 yard for the winning score with 1:29 left.

Rams 41, Packers 38

Greg Bell rushed for 221 yards and scored twice as the unbeaten Rams built a 38-7 halftime lead, then held off a Don Majkowski-led rally by Green Bay.

Standings

American Conference		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Eastern Division							
Buffalo		2	10	6	.667	88	93
Indianapolis		1	2	0	.333	54	70
Miami		1	2	0	.333	81	77
New York		1	2	0	.333	88	98
New England		1	2	0	.333	40	72
Central Division							
Cleveland		2	0	0	1.000	89	24
Cincinnati		1	1	0	.500	55	27
Houston		1	2	0	.333	82	112
Pittsburgh		1	2	0	.333	37	106
Western Division							
Denver		3	0	0	1.000	93	55
Kansas City		1	2	0	.333	50	74
Los Angeles		1	2	0	.333	80	69
San Diego		1	2	0	.333	62	80
Seattle		1	2	0	.333	55	58

National Conference

Eastern Division		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New York Giants		3	0	0	1.000	86	45
Philadelphia		2	1	0	.667	101	82
Phoenix		2	1	0	.667	57	72
Washington		2	1	0	.667	91	76
Dallas		0	3	0	.000	28	85
Central Division							
Chicago		3	0	0	1.000	102	48
Tampa Bay		2	1	0	.667	59	51
Green Bay		1	2	0	.333	84	98
Minnesota		1	2	0	.333	59	72
Detroit		0	3	0	.000	54	87
Western Division							
Los A. Rams		3	0	0	1.000	103	76
San Francisco		2	1	0	.667	88	68
Atlanta		1	2	0	.333	57	65
New Orleans		1	2	0	.333	72	55

SPORTS

Italians complain of injuries, fatigue

LONDON, Sept 25, (Reuters): Italian soccer managers are already counting the cost of injury and fatigue as a season of twice a week football begins to take its toll on leading clubs.

Though none of the top six sides suffered defeat in League matches yesterday against lower-ranked opposition, many trainers are complaining that too much soccer is making motivation difficult.

UEFA cup holders Napoli, joint points leaders with a resurgent Roma, are a case in point.

Maradona's first League goal for seven months on his 200th appearance in club colours salvaged a 1-1 draw against second-bottom Cremonese, but manager Alberto Bigon was far from satisfied.

At one point it looked to me like they were waiting for victory to descend from heaven," said Bigon.

Clubs are playing soccer twice a week this season to meet commitments in time for next June's World Cup finals in Italy and there will be no let-up on Wednesday with seven teams involved in first round second leg European club clashes.

Internazionale's Giovanni Trapattoni was one of few happy managers after the defending champions recorded their first away win of the season with a 1-0 victory at Ascoli, thanks to a third minute goal from West German international striker Juergen Klinsmann.

It was at Ascoli last season that Inter began their record-breaking march to the title but Trapattoni is refusing to get too carried away.

"When you play every three days you end up feeling it. Sunday's results are proof that this championship is full of surprises."

French champions Marseille were ecstatic after their 4-0 away win over Toulon which lifted them to second in the table, a single point behind leaders Bordeaux who have played a game more.

The expensive Marseille side are the League's leading scorers with 24 goals, 10 of them from star striker Jean-Pierre Papin. Papin scored the first against Toulon and new foreign signings Enzo Francescoli of Uruguay (two) and Englishman Chris Waddle added the rest.

They now head for Denmark in good heart to defend a 3-0 first leg lead against Brondby.

Elsewhere, the main talking point was in Sochaux where the home side's Spanish winger Francisco Carrasco and Toulouse's Soviet Libero Vagiz Khidiyatulin were sent off in the final minute.

Carrasco elbowing him in the mouth and, when the Toulouse defender retaliated by hauling the Spaniard to his feet by his hair, it provoked a brawl involving several players.

Sochaux won the game 1-0.

In Spain, Barcelona's harassed coach Johan Cruyff was granted a little respite from the criticism aimed in his direction this season when the team won 2-0 against Castellon last night.

The goals were scored by Michael Laudrup and Ronald Koeman, again confirming the two expensive foreign stars as the team's only real plus points so far.

Atletico Madrid went to the top of the table after beating Seville 1-0 but are more concerned with Wednesday's European Cup match against Fiorentina where they will defend a one-goal advantage.

"Yes, we have started well, but the most important is yet to come," said coach Javier Clemente.

Last season's champions Real Madrid wasted what should have been a heaven-sent opportunity to knock Atletico from the top by drawing 0-0 with Real Mallorca.

Cosch John Toshack blamed his side's lacklustre performance on the state of the Mallorca pitch, claiming it was virtually impossible to control the ball on the surface.

Krickstein upsets Chang for Los Angeles Grand Prix crown

LOS ANGELES, Sept 25, (Reuters): Aaron Krickstein, the comeback king, escaped defeat again yesterday to upset top seed Michael Chang in three sets to win the \$425,000 Los Angeles Grand Prix tennis tournament.

Krickstein, seeded fifth, came back from 6-2 4-1 and two breaks down to beat his fellow-American Chang 2-6 6-4 6-2.

In Saturday's semifinals, Krickstein survived seven match points against him to topple his second-seeded compatriot Brad Gilbert 1-6 7-6 6-2.

"I did it," Krickstein exclaimed at match point.

At age 22, Krickstein's career has been checkered with injuries after bursting on the scene as a 16-year-old.

A title win in Sydney last January was Krickstein's first since 1984 and his victory yesterday, over the 17-year-old French Open champion, was particularly gratifying.

"A lot of people wrote me off when I was younger," Krickstein said. "I worked very hard to come back. I was showing people I can still win some tournaments because I

didn't think people gave me a fair shot."

Krickstein, number 16 in the world, won \$39,000. Chang, ranked sixth, collected \$29,750.

Chang looked fresher in the early going, out-running Krickstein to make winners from the baseline.

But after taking the first set 6-2, and breaking Krickstein twice, Chang began to

falter. His usually reliable forehand began to let him down and he frequently netted easy shots.

Krickstein broke back for 4-2 on a backhand error by Chang and broke the favourite again for 4-4 with a topspin lob. Krickstein scored a third break to take the set 6-4 on another netted forehand by

Chang. Both players survived break points early in the third set, but Krickstein's legs took him further as he broke a tiring Chang for 4-2, then served his way to a 5-2 lead. Chang stood up during the changeover, trying to shake off leg cramps, but was broken for the match as love by a backhand volley from Krickstein.

Navratilova takes title

Seles puts up a good fight



Navratilova clenches her fist in victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

DALLAS, Sept 25, (UPI): Martina Navratilova, forced to a first-set tie-breaker by 15-year-old Monica Seles, posted a straight-set victory yesterday to claim her ninth Virginia Slims of Dallas Championship, 7-6 (7-2), 6-3.

Navratilova, the tournament's top seed and the No. 2 player in the world, won \$50,000. Seles, of Yugoslavia, earned \$22,500.

"She's the hardest hitting 15-year-old I think. She has a good selection. For someone that young, it's a sign of good coaching and a good head on her shoulders."

Navratilova won a service break to go up 2-0 in the first set, but Seles broke back to even the match 2-2, and both held service, forcing the tie-break.

Navratilova had three in the second set. I took some pace off the ball and tried spinning it in and it worked," said Navratilova.

Seles managed to hold serve

only twice in the second set and had trouble with Navratilova's serve-and-volley game.

"She really has a big serve. She has a big kicking slice serve," said Seles. "You really have to play well to beat her. She won't let you win."

"I pretty much know what I have to do against her. She can give me some pointers being a lefty, Seles said. "I need to work on my serve and come into the net a little bit. Some long rallies it would help to use the net."

But Seles, who is left-handed, did manage to sting Navratilova with several passing shots.

"It's hard to attack her first serve. She mixes it up quite well," said Navratilova. "I was able to hit some decent returns. She hits the ball very hard, especially on her right side."

Navratilova is a former Dallas resident and a local favourite.

"I like playing indoors, and the crowd is always enthusiastic. We are entertainers, and it's fun to show your stuff," she added.



Chris Evert: still active

Evert not quite ready to relax

ASPEN, Colorado, Sept 25, (AP): Christ Evert is learning to relax, but she isn't quite ready to trade in her tennis racket for a fishing rod.

"This demands too much patience," Evert said, standing midstream in the roaring Fork River recently before dropping a quick set of love to the trout.

That comment, from the most enduring baseliner in history, may say a lot about Evert's impending change of lifestyle.

Evert, who will play an exhibition match in Denver tomorrow against Martina Navratilova, insists she's still very much an active tennis player, and the daily pace she keeps belies talk of retirement.

That morning, she puffed and perspired and threw her body all over the court in a vigorous 1 1/2-hour workout at the Aspen Club. Then, after her quick stint fly-fishing with husband Andy Mill, she took on a decorator helping redesign the couple's new 7,000-square-foot (650 square metres) home in the fashionable Starwood area outside town.

"The estimate came in double what we had budgeted," Evert said with a glint in her eye that promised the decorator was in for a long, hard match.

Then she returned to the club for another hour and a half on the weights, followed by a run up the Ute Trail, a steep, 1,000-vertical-foot (300 metre) path straight up a mountain face.

Despite talk that Evert would call it quits after her quarterfinal loss in the US Open, she is looking ahead to the exhibition with Navratilova and Saturday-Sunday matches in Philadelphia with Martina and four others. Then she'll arrive in Tokyo Oct 2 to represent the United States in Federation Cup play, the women's equivalent of Davis Cup.

"You can see I haven't quit, not yet," she said. "I think I got retired a little bit against my will. What I said was I wouldn't play any more Grand Slam events, and people took it from there."

"I'll probably play off and on until March or April. I haven't come to terms with the finality of it yet."

What apparently has sunk in, as she soothes her feet in the cold rush of the river, is a new feeling of relaxation. Evert is clad in chest-high waders and sunglasses, all the trappings of a fishing person, and she leans back to let the sun bathe her face.

"The announcement took some of the pressure off. I definitely feel less pressure. For the first time in my life I have freedom," she said.

Nodding toward Mill, she says, "having Andy with me these last three years also has helped. He's a competitor, too, but he also knows how to help me relax."

Mill, an Aspen native and 10-year member of the US ski team who placed sixth in the 1976 Olympic downhill, is an angler who introduced Evert to the sport soon after they met a 1986 New Year's Eve party when she was a guest of Navratilova.

Uruguay qualify for finals

MONTEVIDEO, Sept 25, (Reuters): Uruguayan winger Ruben Sosa scored Uruguay's two goals to beat Peru 2-0 (half-time 1-0) yesterday and win a berth for his country's team in the finals of the 1990 World Cup soccer tournament.

Two-time World Cup winners Uruguay join titleholders Argentina and three-time winners Brazil as the third South American side to reach the finals to be played in Italy.

Efforts by Sosa, striker Ruben Paz and midfielder Pablo Bengoechea made up for the absence of star Enzo Francescoli, whose Olympique de Marseille club

did not allow the talented Uruguayan midfielder to play this qualifying round match.

Though doomed to elimination, the Peruvian squad played a hard game and counter-attacked as often as it could and kept a maiden scoreboard until the 45th minute.

But the visitors gave Uruguay the advantage of an extra man after Peruvian midfielder Juan Reynoso was sent off by Brazilian referee Jose Wright for punching Bengoechea in the face.

At the last minute of the first half Sosa received a long pass and raced into the penalty area,

eluded his marker twice and kicked a low shot past Peruvian goalkeeper Jesus Purizaga to open the scoring.

Sosa's second goal came in the 57th minute, after he blasted the ball into the net from a pass from Bengoechea.

After their victory was safe, the local team delighted with some elegant play the 55,000 spectators.

Uruguay and Bolivia both finished the qualifying round for the South American Group One with six points after three victories and one loss, but Uruguay reached the finals because of their greater goal difference.

Pakistan gets Kiwi umpires

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Sept 25, (Reuters): New Zealand has agreed to allow its umpires to be used for the Pakistan-India four-Test series starting in November. New Zealand Cricket Council (NZCC) chairman Barry Paterson said today.

Pakistan had written to the NZCC requesting two umpires for the matches which in the past have been marked by acrimonious disputes over umpiring decisions.

"We will provide umpires but it is to be without prejudice to our right to appoint our own umpires next time they tour here," Paterson said in a telephone interview.

Pakistan's cricket captain Imran Khan bitterly attacked New Zealand umpires and repeatedly called for neutral umpires during their tour here earlier this year.

Controversy over umpiring reached a peak during England's tour of Pakistan in 1987. England captain Mike Gatting accused Pakistani umpire Shakoor Rana of cheating, an allegation he later withdrew.

Paterson said he believed New Zealand was one of four countries whom Pakistan had asked to provide umpires.

Kasparov widens lead

TILBURG, Netherland, Sept 25, (AP): World champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union widened his lead in the standings of the 13th annual interpolis tournament, defeating Holland's Jeroen Piket in a brilliant game with black in eighth-round action at the 104,000-guilder (\$50,000) chess spectacular yesterday.

Piket, at 20 Holland's youngest grandmaster and making his debut in the Tilburg Super tournament, proved no match for the world champion, who followed a line of the king's Indian defence to coast to victory in just 28 moves.

The world champion improved on existing theory with an innocent looking novelty on his 17th, but when Piket disregarded the move to increase his influence on the queenside, it turned out to be a winner.

The novelty allowed Kasparov to launch an unstoppable kingside attack a few moves later and though Piket played on, he could have saved himself the trouble.

For Kasparov, it was his fourth straight victory and his sixth of the tournament.

With the two draws he had conceded to Ljubomir Ljubojevic of Yugoslavia and Viktor Korchnoi of Switzerland with black earlier in the tournament, he tallied a near perfect score of 7 points from the eight rounds played so far.

Korchnoi, who played to an uneventful draw with black against Johann Hjartarson of Iceland in 26 moves from a Caro-Kann defence, remained in second place, 1 1/2 points behind the world champion.

The novelty allowed Kasparov to launch an unstoppable kingside attack a few moves later and though Piket played on, he could have saved himself the trouble.

For Kasparov, it was his fourth straight victory and his sixth of the tournament.

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Garry Kasparov

Jacklin aims to retire as Europe captain



Jacklin hugs the Ryder Cup after Europe retained the trophy. (Reuters wirephoto)

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England, Sept 25, (Reuters): If Tony Jacklin is adamant in his decision to retire as European Ryder Cup captain, there is an immense gap to fill for the next edition of the event in 1991.

When the smoke of battle cleared yesterday with the match tied at 14-14, Europe retained the trophy they won in 1985 and 1987 and Jacklin again insisted that his tenure as captain, which began in 1983, was over.

"I can't tell you what it has meant to me to be captain four times. I've had a wonderful run and I have been delighted to be part of it. But it's time for someone else to take over. You've got to know when to quit," he said.

Jacklin, 45, has made similar noises before, only to be talked into staying. But this time he seems to mean it, despite the protestations of his players.

"He is the best captain we could have had, the best the team has ever had," Seve Ballesteros of Spain said. "He has created a very good feeling and given us a lot of confidence."

The Spaniard, a huge inspirational force in the team, is without doubt a future team captain but not as long as he is playing.

"Playing-captain would be too much. It is not possible," he said when asked if he might consider it.

He said he felt the captaincy should go to Bernard Gallacher of Britain, a former team member who served as Jacklin's unofficial lieutenant the last two times.

"He is closest to us and would be ideal," Ballesteros said.

Whoever takes over may also have some team rebuilding to do for there are signs that the nucleus

of the team may be breaking up.

Ballesteros and compatriot Jose-Maria Olazabal, along with Britons Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam, provided the backbone of this team, but though all did well in the partnership matches only Olazabal won a point in the singles.

Still only 23, he won 4 1/2 points from five matches, the best on either side, and he is sure to remain a force in future teams.

But Ballesteros, certain still to be starring in 1991, has played every match in four successive appearances, a load he may be reluctant to shoulder in two years time, when he will be 34.

Faldo and Woosnam won 2 1/2 points each in tandem events but Faldo's putting looked suspect all week and Woosnam also struggled on the greens.

Despite being off form, Faldo, the US Masters champion, nearly sneaked half a point in the singles against Lanny Wadkins which would have given Europe outright victory.

He levelled the match with his only birdie of the round on a 16-foot putt at the 17th — then drove into the lake at the last.

West German Bernhard Langer, a stalwart on the winning 1985 and 1987 teams, did not win any points in three matches while Briton Sandy Lyle's form did not even merit him accepting a place on the team.

The singles points came from unexpected sources with Jose-Maria Canizares of Spain and Christy O'Connor Jr of Ireland both gaining victories.

But at 42 and 41 they were the oldest members of the squad and cannot be counted on to win places in future years.

Europe badly needs new blood. It may be asking too much for the old guard to hold off the Americans again in 1991.

Boxer bans battling mother

LONDON, Sept 25, (Reuters): The boxer whose mother sparked fights among the audience when she climbed into the ring and attacked his opponent has banned her from watching him fight again.

Tony Wilson, whose mother Minnie sat about rival Steve McCarthy with a stiletto-heeled shoe, wants to fight McCarthy again as soon as possible — without his mother there.

Wilson, 28, from Wolverhampton, told a press conference today: "I've banned her from watching me again."

After her attack on him, McCarthy refused to continue, saying he was injured. Referee Adrian Morgan judged him to have retired, declared Wilson the winner, and provoked uproar among the crowd.

Wilson's manager Jimmy Tibbs said he expected the British Boxing Board of Control, which is investigating the incident, to declare the fight, a British light-heavyweight title eliminator, a no-contest.

Tibbs said Wilson's mother had no need to feel embarrassed about what she had done. "She just blacked out, she really didn't know what she was doing."

He joked: "I've tried to sign her up, but the board won't grant her a licence."

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